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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,565

A bitter debacle on Everest

Mandela and the mountain

G2 with European weather



Weather and the movies

America by storm

G2 page 5



Society

Why disasters are on the increase

G2 pages 10/11

Partners warn tactic is counter-productive as Britain vetoes 12 policy decisions in Brussels

Wrapped in the futile flag

Minister admits beef ban could last for six years

John Palmer in Brussels and Michael White

MINISTERS admitted yesterday that their non-cooperation campaign within the European Union over BSE-tainted beef may not succeed in getting the EU's worldwide ban lifted completely before the start of the next century.

As ministers went to Brussels to veto 12 more policy decisions, Roger Freeman, the cabinet minister responsible for implementing the domestic BSE eradication programme, admitted the step-by-step process of giving an agreement with South Africa "is going to take some time".

He added: "It certainly is not months. That is because the gestation period [for BSE], as I understand it, is a whole number of years, four, five or six years."

Downing Street was later forced to issue a denial in his name that the minister had meant the ban could last that long.

Many MPs on both sides believe it is closer to the truth than talk of a "victory" sentiment before next month's European summit in Florence on June 21-22. Yet John Major's fellow European Union heads of government expect him to abandon Britain's non-cooperation campaign at or before the summit in return for a face-saving formula which would merely make a start to the long process. They believe that British

interest". Privately Labour believes it will misfire.

The Government has always known that the ban on beef derivatives — gelatin, tallow and bull semen — will almost certainly be lifted either by EU farm ministers or, if necessary, by the Commission next week. Even this concession will, however, be linked to firm evidence that more exacting standards for the production of beef products have been put in place by British industry and will be properly monitored — part of Mr Freeman's task.

An EU investigating team is expected to report back to Brussels this week on what progress Britain has made to improve health standards in its meat trade.

Mr Major knows the other EU leaders will not fix binding dates for the progressive lifting of the overall beef ban. A Commission official said yesterday: "The most he can expect is a statement — perhaps in new language — reiterating our readiness to lift the ban in stages as and when the British authorities are able to show progress in the actual elimination of BSE and of all herds at potential risk from the disease."

Yesterday Mr Freeman vetoed four EU measures, with Baroness Chalker, the overseas aid minister, blocking eight — to the dismay of third world lobbyists. But Mr Freeman admitted that routine work would carry on as usual: "Life goes on," he told startled reporters.

A senior official of the Italian presidency said yesterday: "There are signs that the British government is becoming a little bit more realistic... There is much less stress now on a rigid timetable for removing the beef ban and more emphasis on the need for us to work together to remove the need for any ban."

Labour limits accord, page 4; Leader comment, page 5; Be very afraid, page 9



The view from Europe



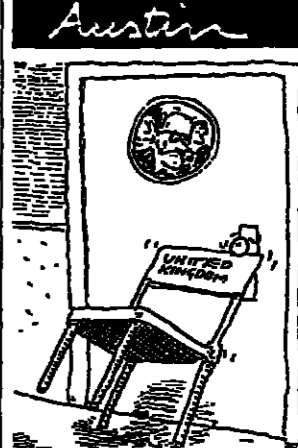
HENRY V at Agincourt. Winston Churchill during the Battle of Britain. Margaret Thatcher during the Falklands war. And now a worthy descendant — John Major and mad cow disease. The British prime minister has become in one speech a brave knight brandishing his sword against European enemies. But his high-risk strategy reveals a cornered politician. His call to arms is more for internal consumption than to force concessions from Europe. He is head of a government that has a majority of one. Mr Major is playing his last card — populist and demagogic. He hopes that by draping himself in the Union Jack he can dredge up a Tory victory. It is by no means sure that Europeans will be as easy to crush as the Argentine junta.

LE SOIR

BLACKMAIL is common currency in the European Union. But never have such matters been aired so bluntly. The strategy chosen by John Major may be suicidal. His attitude to Maastricht has left its scars. His opposition to Jean-Luc Dehaene as a successor to Jacques Delors further tarnished his relationship with the EU. His present attitude — after years of negligence in the prevention of mad cow disease — is worse than ever, because political calculations have been grafted on to a matter of public health. The blackmail which crowns a sad European career takes on a new dimension of indecency.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

JOHN Major has become, through the beef crisis, the EU whipping boy. EU leaders



meet in Florence soon to discuss the Maastricht treaty. Understandable as their anger is, the EU is being somewhat hypocritical. The supposed model pupils of Bonn and Paris cannot hide behind the *Rosencroptics* from London.

For years, German politicians have pleaded for a decrease in EU subsidies, but Germany is one of the biggest subsidisers. The beef crisis requires crisis management, which might include excluding gelatin and by-products from the ban. The model student could prove it is so by reintegrating the Brit through agreeing to lift the partial ban.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

JOHN Major is reaping a fat dividend with his anti-European crusade. Commentators are speculating that the leap in popularity may cause him to call an election in a climate of rabid Europhobia. Whether the context is the mad cow crisis, monetary union or the Inter-Governmental Conference, no one has any illusions about the possibility of managing EU affairs with this Conservative government. Europe is patiently waiting for the British elections, hoping for a change in the government.

'I very much regret having to do this.'

—Baroness Chalker, Overseas Development Minister

- BARONESS CHALKER:**
- Draft conclusions on a project called Horizon 2000: better co-ordination of EU and member states' aid programmes.
 - Draft resolution on environmental impact assessment: guiding principles on assessing impact of aid projects on environment.
 - Draft conclusions on decentralised co-operation: clearer evaluation of such projects.
 - Migration and development establishment of a working group.



- Draft conclusions on plans to improve co-ordination of relief, rehabilitation and development projects.
- Negotiating mandate for Mexican relations.
- Agreement on emergency travel documents.
- Report on EU/African/Caribbean/Pacific development projects.

ROGER FREEMAN:

- Resolution on admin-

'The work of deregulation at national level can and will go on. Life goes on.'

—Roger Freeman, Public Services Minister

- Administrative co-operation:**
- Red-tape cutting.
 - Resolution on legislative simplification: standardising legislation such as mutual recognition of diplomas, ornamental plant health directives and import/export licensing forms.
 - Conclusions on the harmonisation of accounting practices.
 - Conclusions for the internal European market on the consequences of integrated company statutes for EU firms.

Police called in to England soccer stars incident

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

THE Football Association launched an inquiry last night into complaints that the England team were involved in an "incident" while flying back from Hong Kong, which is being investigated by police.

The section of the aircraft where the England players were sitting, Cathay Pacific, said last night. Cathay Pacific lodged a complaint with Heathrow police after the flight touched down at 5.30am yesterday and officers from Heathrow were still investigating their complaints last night.

"We can confirm that an incident took place on flight CX251 from Hong Kong to Heathrow this morning," said a Cathay Pacific spokesman. "The incident was contained, and there were no injuries to passengers. The airline has launched an official inquiry, and until those results are known we will not make any further comment."

The news is hugely embarrassing to the FA — two weeks before the country hosts Euro 96 — with the national team being accused of vandalism so close to a tournament which the FA had hoped would pass off without incident and rid Britain of its hoodlum image.

The FA heart of the police investigation when its chief executive Graham Kelly received a fax from Cathay Pacific at 4.25pm yesterday. "Allegations in that fax will be investigated by Terry Venables [the England manager] at the earliest opportunity," an FA spokesman said. "If any action needs to be taken, it will be. Cathay Pacific have asked us to look at it."

On the flight, the England party were sitting apart from other passengers in the Marco Polo business class section, where tickets cost £2,500 each. As well as unlimited free champagne and wine, the players would have had reclining seats and personal videos. The airline is awaiting reports from cabin staff.

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Labour

Festival sketch

Shamanic tales for t'clacking folk



Martin Wainwright

AFTER 25 years of teasing, the Hampstead of the North is about to justify its legendary status with a jamboree to set teeth on edge with envy in London NW3. In a whirl of beads and berets, t'clacking folk (or chattering classes) of the central Pennines are presenting six weeks of performance poetry, shamanic drumming and Indonesian gamelan music among the fustian and saddle-felt mills of Hebdon Bridge. Crammed into a side-valley of Caldorale, so steep that traditional back-to-backs are actually top-to-bots, the town has gradually grown embarrassed at the gap between its fame as a Yorkshire Farnassus, and cultural reality. "We've got all these artists living here," said Sydney Roper, "but no festival to show off what they can do." Among the computers and piles of paper at his national seminar-organising consultancy (a concrete example of Hebdon/Hampstead, relocated from the London suburb by its owners, London University) he and a group of pals have set about putting that right. It is an uphill struggle, and not just because of the town's spectacularly steep streets, which had postman Derek Crossley gasping on his round yesterday. "Arts festival? I don't know about that. But we're definitely going to Tod carnival." Mr Crossley, tempted to the neighbouring burn-to-earth town of Todmorden, sends the oldest of Hebdon's rich mix of social strands: the Originals, whose art reached a peak in corduroy and battle-dress manufacture, (Vernacular literature took the form of bog invitations to unknown GIs slipped into the pockets of uniforms by mill girls during the second world war.)

Indoors, opening Derek's post, Leonie McDermott and her son Atilla ("I'm wind-swept and interesting," he offers) stand for another of Leonie's set of the Unreconstructed Hippies. Drawn from Romford, Essex, a decade ago by Sixties friends and incredible house prices (£10,000 for a four-bedroom stone fortress), she loves laid-back Whitehorse Road. "Like being at college again but without students (no offence, but we're a bit older now)." So she was festivating? "Well, not yet. We'd like to be it's been so busy with Women's Aid For Peace and our convays to Bosnia. And now we've got school half-term." "My husband's a sculptor, though, so he could get involved in the sculpture trail they would like to try to get a photographic exhibition together if I can." There are only four days left for such initiatives, although Windsor Street's rich collection of doorstop potted plants (including Leonie's star beech tree in a lavatory bowl) would make an excellent instant photo essay. "Just look at the drainpipes," said Atilla, "every one a different colour." Only one — sure sign of a surviving Original — still carries the dark, petrol-blue compulsory in the days when the street belonged to Foster's Mills. Several doors down, another Unreconstructed Hippie is missing out on the fun too. Juggler and street performer (and emergency Yorkshire Water tanker driver) Tony Webber is the festival's loss, France's gain. The For Sale sign outside his home marks imminent plans to flit to the countryside near Bordeaux. "Street performing goes down better there," said Tony, shuddering at a municipal booking in Nottingham where he was offered the local Gents to change in and use as his base. "The weather's cold here and the audiences seem cold too." The festival's attraction of An Evening With Sir Bernard Ingham — the town's most famous contemporary son — also brings him out in shivers.

First night

Spear heads reggae legends

Garth Cartright

Essential Music Festival Brighton

SA WARM-UP for the season's major events, Brighton's Essential Music Festival offers a fairly predictable dance and indie fare across the weekend, while Monday presented an imaginative Jamaican-British cross-pollination under the guise of a reggae day. Reggae may have given the Seventies the best tunes, biggest bass lines and, in Bob Marley, its brightest star, but the Eighties saw the rise of ragga and the retreat of reggae. Yet London and Bristol sound systems were exploring the heart of dub and rechanneling reggae. Just as blues was opened out by an ex-LSE student and mates 30 years ago, the adventures inherent in trip-hop, jungle and ambient derive from Jamaican sonic principles retooled in underground British clubs and studios. And in a Brighton valley greying Jamaican reggae legends and fresh-faced artful samplers provided the sound clash that could define this summer. Lee Scratch Perry is the original loop guru and a father figure to most everyone playing today. Perry is a producer of legend, singer of note and perpetrator of mainly odd acts. The most recent of these being his settling in Switzerland. Live appearances confirm Scratch as the eternal space cadet. He clucks, squawks, trants, chants and sings shamanic verse. He also likes to drown everything in echo. Having invented dub he

is still testing its boundaries. A gate, sure, but not one you need to listen to very often. Gregory Isaacs and Michael Rose both played crowd-pleasing early evening sets. Fifteen years ago either could have headlined a similar-sized event. Isaacs was reggae's answer to Marvin Gaye and, like his mentor, he burned his career and talent in a cocaine pipe. He has made a slow comeback recently but today's gruff-voiced performance suggests the seducer of Night Nurse has some distance to go. Leading Black Uhuru, Rose was groomed to fill Marley's shoes until he found conquering Babylon by bus not to his taste and retreated to Jamaica's highlands. Twelve years on and Rose has not lost his militant rasta fundamentalism or his way with an anthem. His band swing and he broods magnificently. London's Dub Syndicate played before Lee Perry took the main stage. Appropriate with the Syndicate having kept Perry in circulation throughout the Eighties. Techno dub workouts by Zion Train and Iration Steppas provide lively knees-up activity while weaves of Transglobal Underground and the wonderful Banco De Gaia match exotic dub collages with post-house dance manoeuvres. There is all kinds of integration and experimentation going on here, but the one artist fully in control of his fusion is Burning Spear. Spear opens up the sound. Deep rhythms, dense horns, sparkling guitars and his foghorn of a voice calling the Diaspora back to Africa. Spear's Old Testament prophecies unfold across beautiful patterns of sound.

War orphan to return home

Press Association

TENNIEH Cole, the five-year-old orphan girl brought to Britain for a life-saving operation, was due to return to Sierra Leone today to be reunited with the couple who found her after her parents were killed in the civil war. Tennie, who was blinded in her right eye and left partly deaf when a bullet entered

her skull, arrived three weeks ago for the operation to remove the 2cm bullet from behind her eye. It was carried out by doctors at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, who feared there was a significant risk of her dying through a brain infection. "She is a confused little girl and it will be good for her to settle in her home environment," said Caroline Cook from the charity.

Scottish parliament to waive revenue-raising powers in first term, according to latest Blair revision

Labour freezes 'tartan tax'

Michael White Political Editor

THE Labour leadership is to defuse the "tartan tax" controversy by pledging that the proposed Scottish parliament would not exercise its powers to raise — or lower — taxes during its first four-year term. Amid renewed controversy among the main parties north of the border, Tony Blair and his lieutenants, several of whom are Scots, have not finalised a decision on the options set out by the shadow Scottish secretary, George Robertson, to defuse a potential campaign issue for John Major

without allowing the nationalists to accuse Labour of political cowardice. However, shadow ministers are all but certain to embrace a formula whereby the power to vary Scottish income tax by up to 3p in the pound either way will be retained in the devolution bill planned for the first session of a Blair-led parliament. Simultaneously, Labour would promise not to invoke the power in the proposed 1998-2002 term of the new Edinburgh parliament where, even with a proportional voting system, Labour would dominate. Ironically, the case for giving Edinburgh some tax powers — unlike the aborted devolution bills of the 1970s — arises from a belief that it would provide discipline to Scots politicians who would otherwise blame Whitehall for any financial problem. "If you don't have that power, you have a permanent naggle to contend with. You can't tell your backbenchers to shut up or be prepared to argue for higher Scottish taxes," said one senior MP. "Without it they'd have free range to blame London," said another. Scots Tories are preparing to denounce a "soggy compromise" while the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, is telling supporters that Labour's shifty commitment to devolution is "starting to crumble before

our eyes". But claims that some of Scotland's 49 Labour MPs are backing off the basic commitment are denied emphatically. Though the Tories remain in third place in Scotland, opinion polls show support for devolution — let alone the pro-independence campaign — weakening if taxes are likely to rise. A penny on income tax would raise £120-150 million in Scotland, against £2 billion UK-wide. Mr Robertson has been examining several options, including a requirement that two-thirds or three-quarters of the Edinburgh parliament's members would have to endorse a Scots tax change, or that this would have to be

agreed with the British Chancellor of the Exchequer. That is seen as a recipe for nationalist strife on both sides, as unacceptable as dropping the tax power altogether. The pro-devolutionists take comfort from the knowledge that the chancellor for they will almost certainly face will be Gordon Brown, a long-standing supporter. The shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, formerly a critic, is also now pro-devolution. Mr Robertson argues that many regional parliaments which have such powers, including those in Spain and Australia, do not exercise them — nor did the old Stormont parliament in Northern Ireland. Colleagues add that

campaigning on a pledge that taxes would go up is "highly implausible" in the present political climate. Backed by cabinet colleagues, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, has campaigned against the "tartan tax" as a threat to Scotland's businesses and jobs — and tangible proof that Labour's gut instincts remain high-tax ones. Shadow ministers eager to see devolved government spread to the English regions as well as to Wales fear Mr Major will use the issue to renew "Labour tax bombshell" fears in England. "It's the knock-on effect in England that worries Tony Blair," one MP said.

Yeltsin tells troops 'we won'

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin staged a lightning visit to the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday to tell Russian troops that they had won the war, destroyed a criminal regime and liquidated the forces of the rebels. Meanwhile the leaders of that regime, with whom Mr Yeltsin had signed a peace deal the night before, lay trapped all day in a government guest house in Moscow, powerless to stop the Russian leader's triumphal tour. A furious Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the rebel Chechen leader, who had no advance warning of Mr Yeltsin's latest publicity stunt, cancelled a press conference and flew back to Chechnya last night. Mr Yeltsin used his short sojourn in Grozny airport to rub salt into the wounds of the rebel leadership, calling them terrorists and saying that their resistance was "practically broken". Never straying far from his helicopter, Mr Yeltsin told the troops of the 26 Rifle Brigade at the airport: "Victory is yours. We have won over the rebellious Dudayev regime... We have taken into account the lessons of the past. We will co-operate with those who give up their arms. We will destroy those illegal armed formations which continue military activity." It was a bellicose speech which had more to do with



Boris Yeltsin greets residents of Grozny during his lightning visit to the Chechen capital yesterday

PHOTOGRAPHY DMITRI SOLOV

securing peace with his near-mutinous army than securing negotiations with the rebels. The two sides still have to agree on a surrender of weapons and exchange of prisoners, neither of which has happened in the past. Mr Yeltsin said: "The dispersed groups of the intransigent opposition are not going to give up their arms immediately, but we will deploy the hardest response measures to all attempts at terrorist and criminal activity." Support for the precarious peace deal flooded in from

Western capitals. In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We welcome the news of this agreement. We hope that both sides will implement it in a manner that can lead to lasting peace." The French foreign minister called the deal a major step towards a settlement. Mr Yeltsin's words, however, only highlighted the gap between the sides. He said he had come to Chechnya after 18 months of war to "democratise" the Chechen Republic in Russia and nowhere else, slamming the

door shut on the rebel Chechen claim of sovereignty. He called the Moscow placement of Doku Zavgyayev, who stood by his side, "the head of Chechnya" who was known, praised and treated with great respect. This too will infuriate the rebel leaders, who refuse to recognise last year's elections which brought Zavgyayev to power. Mr Yeltsin called on ethnic Russians who fled Grozny in the wake of the Russian bombardment to return and rebuild their houses, and said they could get a housing loan.

Ethnic Russians in Grozny were the first victims of the brutal Russian bombardment in January and February 1995 and their property was looted by Russian soldiers. Yeltsin did not mention compensation for homeless Chechens. Mr Yeltsin reportedly ordered her release. As Mr Yeltsin left the ravaged capital, the pro-Moscow Chechen interior ministry reported triumphantly that it was unusually calm.

Nazi back Yeltsin, page 6

Burmese defy threats

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BURMA'S defiant democratic opposition threw down a new challenge to the military junta yesterday, ignoring heavy-handed official intimidation to announce plans to draw up a new constitution. Reports from the capital Rangoon said 40,000 people turned out for a government-sponsored rally — the second in two days — to denounce "traitorous acts by the democracy camp led by Aung San Suu Kyi." Official counter-measures coincided with the end of a controversial three-day meeting of Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, which drew attention to state repression and mounting international criticism of it. The conference was the boldest step yet against the junta by Ms Suu Kyi since her release from six years of house arrest last July. Plans for a constitution, even with no means of enforcing it, would provide Burma with a clear contrast: a system emphasising democracy and human rights versus one weighted towards a paramount role for the military.



Aung San Suu Kyi: planned constitution is bold new step

out of a government-organised convention drafting a new constitution. It denounced the convention as a rubber stamp. The NLD conference, marking the anniversary of elections in 1990 when the opposition won 80 per cent of the seats, was supposed to bring together candidates who had not been killed, jailed or driven into exile by the junta, which did not honour the election result. But the arrests of 260 delegates and party members drew attention to the regime's practice of crushing dissent while quietly signing business deals with foreign corporations looking for lucrative contracts. Even the tightly controlled Burmese media has been unable to hide the crack-handed attempt at stifling support for Ms Suu Kyi: state television showed gloomy pro-junta demonstrators clapping politely after being urged on to the streets by government loudspeaker trucks. In contrast, cheers and chants greeted Ms Suu Kyi when 10,000 Burmese braved the dreaded MI — military intelligence — to hear her speak outside her home. The right people, page 9

'Smokeless' cigarette goes on sale in US

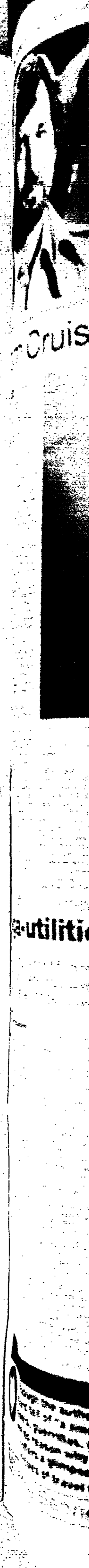
Mark Tran in New York

AFTER millions of dollars and years of research, a US company believes it has finally succeeded in its quest for a "clean" cigarette which cuts down significantly on ash, stains, smell and smoke. R.J. Reynolds, which makes Camel and Winston, claims the Eclipse cigarette reduces second-hand smoke by nearly

90 per cent. It is the company's second attempt in eight years to market a smokeless or low-smoke cigarette. In 1988, it introduced Premier, after \$200 million (£98 million) in research. But Premier went up in smoke after just a year, amid disappointing sales and stiff opposition from public health groups which complained about unknown safety risks. Eclipse uses on sale next Tuesday in Chattanooga, Ten-

nessee, after three years of tests involving 12,000 smokers in 20 states followed by an extensive marketing campaign, and could go on sale in other US cities this year. The cigarette does not burn tobacco. At the lit end, it has a small tip made mainly of carbon which burns and sends hot air through the tobacco inside the cigarette. It does not burn down but after about six or seven minutes goes out by itself.

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The big screen: ET, Jurassic Park and Forrest Gump, America's biggest grossing films. Mission Impossible, the film remake of the television classic, almost recouped its \$60 million production cost in four days

Tom Cruise pulls off movie Mission Impossible

Ian Katz in New York reports on a record Hollywood money spinner

IT WAS Tom Cruise against the forces of nature and, predictably, the clean-cut leading man won handsomely. Cruise's big-budget remake of the cloak-and-dagger television classic Mission Impossible broke box office records for the lucrative Memorial Day weekend.

The glossy spy thriller came close to recouping its \$60 million (£40 million) production cost in its first four days and was on course to break the six-day record of \$74.1 million set by Jurassic Park. It easily outstripped the \$37.2 million Memorial Day weekend record set by The Flintstones in 1994.

The success of Cruise's cold-war reprise during its first key days confirms the star power of the diminutive actor, aged 33, who co-produced Mission Impossible and reportedly insisted on control of virtually every aspect of the film.

It will cheer Hollywood honchos unnerved by a string of recent box office bombs, including a remake of the television series Flipper and a screen version of the Roald Dahl book, James and the Giant Peach. Cruise plays Ethan Hunt, an impossibly cool undercover agent who must hunt down a mole responsible for engineering the death of a number of his fellow spies. Or something like that.

The film features a snappy, updated version of the television show's memorable Lalo Schiffrin theme tune and its instructions to agents delivered on self-de-



As well as co-producing Mission Impossible, Tom Cruise stars as Ethan Hunt, an undercover agent in search of the killer of his fellow spies

structing cassettes — though now the cassettes are videos rather than audio tapes. Stars of the original series were less than impressed by Cruise's offer of cameo parts in his interpretation. "The cast was approached to come back and get killed in the first five minutes," said Martin Landau. "But after all those years, that's not the way we wanted to be remembered." The critics were similarly unflattering. The Washington Post called it "a tired,

cynical denial of everything the TV show meant ... a window on to Hollywood's intellectual bankruptcy and barely perceptible standards". Time magazine lamented "an infinite trailer that is all effects, no effect" and wondered why Cruise sported "the worst haircut ever worn in public by a major movie star". Almost everyone complained that following the film's labyrinthine plot was indeed a mission impossible. But Cruise's detractors

were easily drowned out by a \$30 million marketing blitz which ensured it was impossible to switch on a television for more than five minutes without finding oneself humming along to the theme tune. Cruise is one of a handful of Hollywood leading men who can command \$20 million per movie. But with soaring star wages driving production costs skyward, studios need virtually every film featuring an A-list actor to be a blockbuster just to break even.

Hollywood is anxiously waiting to find out if Jim Carrey can justify his \$20 million fee for The Cable Guy, released next month, and if Demi Moore can recoup the \$12.5 million (a record for an actress) she was paid to

reveal all in the upcoming Striptease. The Memorial Day weekend is seen as a crucial indicator of the American public's appetite for movies during the summer months, when the studios do almost 40 per cent of

Seven nuggets and you are out

Sarah Boseley

IT WAS a case of two chicken McNuggets too far. A McDonald's employee, who like a latter-day Oliver Twist, wanted more than her lunchtime allowance of six battered bits of poultry, has been sacked for gross misconduct.

With rather the reaction of Dickens's Mr Bumble, McDonald's was unwilling to take Cathy Shephard's predilection for its food as a compliment to the chef. The 17-year-old who worked in the drive-through branch in Strood, Kent, appealed further up the hierarchy, but was given her cards.

Could she possibly have been hungry? spokeswoman for McDonald's doubted it. "She would have been entitled to a McDonald's extra value meal — chicken nuggets or a quarter pounder or a Big Mac and fries and a drink," she said. "She should have taken an order of six nuggets. She took an order bigger than that."

Clearly she liked the food, but McDonald's does not hold with the practices of chocolate factories — the stuff of childhood legend — where conveyor-belt packers may eat and eat until they are sick.

No — they have a rigid food policy, which entitles each employee to roughly the same value meal once a day, worth just under £3. "Everybody gets the same food allowance — it's very egalitarian," the spokeswoman said.

Ms Shephard's addiction to McFast Food was such that she had helped herself to a bit extra on an earlier occasion. "She had been warned 11 days earlier that abusing the food allowance was a sackable offence," the spokeswoman said.

Ms Shephard, who had worked for McDonald's for just under a year, claimed she asked a colleague to pass her the standard issue box of six nuggets, but was given one containing eight. "We are talking about losing my job over a few pennies," she said.

While McDonald's is proud of its staff policies, burger chains are not famous for their generosity to staff. Last year Burger King changed its mind in the face of bad publicity and paid compensation to workers who had been told to clock off, thereby losing pay, whenever there were few customers in the restaurant.

Block busters

Top 10 earners of all time (US\$)

ET	369,804,539
Jurassic Park	357,067,947
Forrest Gump	228,688,600
Star Wars	222,740,142
The Lion King	212,858,561
Home Alone	285,761,243
Return of the Jedi	263,734,442
Jaws	260,000,000
Batman	251,188,924
Raiders of the Lost Ark	242,374,454

their box office business. Americans spent a record \$119.7 million watching the top 10 films over the long weekend — more than they spent on all the films on release over the same period last year. At the rate they are going they will spend \$6 billion on cinema tickets this year, 17 per cent more than in 1995.

"No one could ever have dreamed the numbers we're getting," Sherry Lansing, the head of Paramount Pictures, which released Mission Impossible, told the New York Times.

"The movie, we feel, is intelligent, it's got great special effects, you never catch your breath and it holds you on the edge of your seat. Also, Tom Cruise is a major, major, major movie star, arguably the biggest draw there is."

By yesterday the industry was already abuzz with speculation about a sequel. Parisi Silver, who collaborated with Cruise to produce Mission Impossible, said this was premature: "Call me in a week."

Mega-utilities 'threaten jobs'

Redwood calls for Monopolies Commission referrals over looming wave of takeovers

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

THE former Tory leadership challenger John Redwood warned the Government last night that it must take urgent action to clarify its policy on the water, gas and electricity industries by referring rival bids for Southern Water to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

In an indication of growing Tory unease at the prospect of widespread job cuts across the party's heartlands in the south of the country in the wake of more utility takeovers, Mr Redwood demanded that Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, ask the MMC to intervene to ensure the merged companies were capable of maintaining vital supplies.

Mr Redwood was speaking as Scottish Power launched a £1.56 billion takeover bid for Southern Water. Southern Electric, the water company's Maidenhead-based neighbour, is expected to announce this morning that it has reached agreement to make a rival offer.

The bids sparked huge surges in water company share prices as the City anticipated what one analyst described as a "tidal wave of

takeovers" with utilities scrambling to combine to create "mega-utilities" offering a range of services under one corporate roof.

Predicting a rush of takeovers before the election, the analyst said: "There are a number of management teams out there with a twinkle in their eye keen to get it done before Tony Blair stops it."

Mr Redwood said there had already been examples of utilities making "unfortunate acquisitions" of businesses outside their own areas of experience. It would be worrying if an electricity company bought a water company and then found it was unable to run it.

Emphasising that more vigorous competition should lie at the heart of government policy, Mr Redwood said he did not accept it was necessary for utilities to pool assets in order to strip out costs. This could be achieved by joint ventures or contracting out services.

He said the MMC should investigate whether it was possible to ring-fence revenues in companies supplying vital services. The MMC should also ask whether it was happy that customer pledges given by each industry could be met.

Mr Redwood was speaking

amid concern on Tory benches about the prospect of heavy job losses in southern constituencies as water and power companies consider mergers.

Southern Water is based in Worthing and covers Hampshire, Sussex, Kent and the Isle of Wight. Other water firms touted as possible bid targets included Thames Water and Bristol-based Wessex Water, which serves Somerset and Dorset.

The Government was forced to block takeovers of two regional electricity companies by generators National Power and PowerGen

recently after Mr Redwood and the former Chancellor Norman Lamont warned the bids would produce powerful monopolies.

Scottish Power's bid for Southern Water would create a group which offered electricity, gas, water and telephone services from one point of service.

Its success is being watched closely by the rival generators National Power and PowerGen.

Ian Robinson, Scottish Power's chief executive, defended

the takeover. There would be no compulsory job cuts, and the merger would lead to enhanced competition by creating a new multi-utility business to take on the established players in the south.

The company is offering 97p in shares and dividends for each Southern Water share. There is a cash alternative of 95p for each water company share.

Southern Electric's bid will offer even more. City analysts predicted that a deal between the two southern companies would spark big job cuts as costs were squeezed to justify the takeover.

John Battie, Labour's energy spokesman, said there was "still no sign of a strategy from the Government, when what is needed is a clear lead to ensure that the consumer's interests are protected".

The Consumers' Association said regulators must defend the public from the emergence of super-utilities. Colin Meek, a senior researcher, said: "Competition would be severely restricted if two or three companies dominated the water and power industries."

The National Consumer Council said the money spent on takeovers should be used to cut consumer bills. An MMC investigation should consider whether regulators had enough power to run industries dominated by a few large groups.

Notebook, page 11; Water comes to the boil, page 12

'There are some management teams keen to get it done before Tony Blair stops it'

Although the authors of The Lonely Planet "survival kit" have heard tell of "a smorgasbord of dictators, anti-government rebels, guerrillas, insurgents and assorted malcontents", they see no reason why this should deter visitors. On the contrary: "it offers a glimpse of an incredibly Orwellian society ... The positives of travel to Myanmar outweigh the negatives."

Catherine Bennett, page 9

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Doncaster head teacher Liz Paver, who had dental, leg and arm injuries after being dragged by a car driven by a pupil's angry mother. PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CLIFF

Heads urge 'sins of parents' ban

Anger over demands to exclude pupils for adults' 'school rage'

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

CHILDREN should be excluded from school if their parents threaten and abuse staff, head teachers are demanding in the face of mounting assaults.

Today the National Association of Head Teachers' conference will hear how their vice-president, Liz Paver, a Doncaster head teacher, suffered dental, leg and arm injuries when she was dragged along the ground by a car driven by an angry mother after a confrontation.

But the largest parents' organisation reacted angrily to the idea of "punishing children for the sins of their parents". Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, told teaching unions to stop making inflammatory speeches, and to sit down with parents and social services to work out solutions.

"We have coped with road rage, now let's cope with school rage," she said.

Rage reports

'He treated me like one of his pupils. He provoked me and I hit him'

Liz Paver, head of Intake 1-First School, Doncaster, suffered dental and other injuries after being dragged by a car driven by a mother after an argument.

The incident arose after a child was hurt in a playground accident. Mrs Paver thought the matter had been cleared up, but the next day the mother came in and confronted the older child involved in the accident.

"I had to tell her that was not appropriate behaviour," Mrs Paver said, "at which point she became very agitated." The parent got into her car with her daughter and prepared to drive off. "I was worried that she wasn't in a fit state to drive, so I put my hand through the window to calm her. At that stage she drove off, and I was dragged behind her. I think she just lost it."

Afterwards the mother had been contrite, but the incident seemed symptomatic of society, said Mrs Paver. "It is like road rage — people do not take a step back to talk things through, but attack first."

Fellow union members said after hearing Mrs Paver's account that they had been threatened but were unwilling to identify themselves or their schools. One told a primary girl to remove a jewellery chain, only to have the father come in and threaten to strangle her with it.

The deputy head of a Manchester primary was recently assaulted by an angry mother. Uta Williams told magistrates she hit Peter Canning on the nose during an argument at St Wilfred's Primary, Hulme. "He treated me like one of his pupils. He provoked me and I hit him."

Paul Hutchings, a Kent teacher who had to retire after being beaten up by a pupil and his father, won £118,000 damages after his case was taken up by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. He had tried to protect a woman colleague in the staff room of Oldborough Manor School, Loose, near Maidstone.

Tories launch plan to end 'job culture'

Alan Travis on how both parties are taking leaf out of the NYPD's 'zero tolerance' book

THE political auction over law and order took a new twist yesterday when Home Office ministers floated plans to deal with "job culture" which bore a remarkable resemblance to Jack Straw's blueprint for dealing with aggressive beggars and squeegee merchants.

Both parties' schemes borrow heavily from the "broken windows" crime-fighting strategy adopted by New York, which argues that to deal with real crime you must

first tackle those who indulge in petty lawlessness, such as breaking windows, before they turn to more serious crime.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani claimed recently that the success of the police in their crackdown on begging, public drinking and other offences, alongside a 15 per cent fall in the crime rate, had turned New York into the safest large city in America. The murder rate is at a 25-year low, with 1,182 killings last year.

Mr Straw, the shadow home secretary, was impressed when he visited last summer, and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, followed in the new year, taking a team from the Police Inspectorate with him to assess how it was done.

Mr Howard appears to have been impressed by the new generation of New York Police Department commanders who engage in a "zero tolerance" strategy in which they clamp down on prostitution in public places, itinerant windscreen washers, public drunkenness, and loud music in cars. There is particular ministerial interest in a

PM slams ethnic mix in Commons

Major wants Asian and West Indian candidates. Andrew Gull reports

JOHAN Major has criticised the ethnic composition of the Commons in a television interview to be broadcast tonight.

The Prime Minister said Parliament did not reflect the ethnic and gender mix of the country and he would be delighted to have more Asians standing for the Conservatives. But it was a matter for local constituency parties and Central Office could not intervene.

Speaking on BBC2's Asian magazine programme, East-End, Mr Major said: "The present mix of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of Asian candidates, West Indian candidates, or indeed the male and female balance of the population."

Drawing on experiences of living with ethnic groups during his upbringing in Brixton, south London, he described himself as "colour-blind" and rejected suggestions that the Euro-sceptical wing of the party had racist tendencies.

The interviewer, Martin Bashir, also questioned the Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Ashdown, who was asked why there were only three Asian MPs at Westminster, said: "Because the House of Commons is a club for white middle-class males, and that means others are excluded from it."

"It is described as the best gentlemen's club in London. That is something I want to break. I hate the pomposity, the self-satisfaction of this place."

The first-past-the-post electoral system excluded minorities, but he admitted he was to blame for failing to be aware of racial tension in his constituency of Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr Blair said: "There aren't any problems with the process of selection in the sense that the party or the party hierarchy is trying to prevent Asian people coming through the selection process."

We are committed to it and are keen to make it possible for more Asian people to come through and represent constituencies, particularly



'The present mix of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of Asian candidates, West Indian candidates, or indeed the male and female balance of the population'

— John Major



'The House of Commons is a club for white middle-class males, and that means others are excluded from it. It is described as the best gentlemen's club in London. I hate the pomposity, the self-satisfaction of this place'

— Paddy Ashdown



'There aren't any problems with the process of selection in the sense that the party or the party hierarchy is trying to prevent Asian people coming through the selection process. We are keen for more Asian people to come through'

— Tony Blair



'There are no blacks or Asians in New Labour's inner circle. Mr Blair has to take a much more positive approach. To get more black MPs we need more commitment from the leadership'

— Diane Abbott

... where there's a very high Asian population."

Labour is facing a legal challenge in Manchester from two Asian party members over selection of parliamentary candidates.

The three Asian MPs in the Commons are the Tory, Niranjana Deva (Brentford), and Labour's Keith Vaz (Leicester East) and Piers Khabra (Ealing Southall).

Man tapped on palace window in attempt to see Diana

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

POLICE yesterday insisted that a man who tapped on the windows of Kensington Palace in the middle of the night, demanding to see the Princess of Wales, had not breached palace security.

Liam Whitney, aged 36, from Tullamore, Co Offaly, climbed fences to enter the Orangery gardens alongside the princess's London home and get within 80 yards of her bedroom.

He was clapping a book about her when he was arrested.

The princess was at Kensington Palace during the incident, but was not disturbed. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "There was no breach of the palace security area."

Whitney, a clerical officer, gave no explanation when he appeared at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, London, on Monday. The court heard he told police he wanted to see the princess.

He pleaded guilty to breaching the Royal and other Parks and Gardens Regulations 1977 by being in Kensington Gardens when they were closed, and was bound over in the sum of £100 for a year.

Labour limits accord on beef

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, yesterday set limits on Labour's support for non-cooperation with Europe over the beef ban, insisting that some European Union directives should not be vetoed and demanding that the Government consult fully with the opposition.

He also warned ministers they could incite violence at next month's European Football Championships in England if they indulge in jingoistic language.

Mr Cook's remarks at a Westminster press conference did not amount to a withdrawal of co-operation, but differed in tone from those made by the Labour leader, Tony Blair, last week in Rome, when he appeared to offer unconditional support — at least until the European summit in Florence on June 21.

Mr Cook said Labour support was conditional on three factors.

First, the Government would have to consult Labour "to demonstrate it is pursuing confrontation in Europe to further the national interest, not to promote the party political interest". The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, will send a written reply to Mr Cook today, but apparently he is willing to inform Labour of the details of the policy, but not consult with Labour on its wisdom.

Second, Mr Cook said the Government must minimise the damage to British interests in the course of disrupting business in Brussels. He called on the Government first to consult the CBI, and criticised it for blocking a directive on Third World aid.

Third, Mr Cook demanded that ministers do not resort to the language of "xenophobia or jingoism", saying such tactics were liable to inflame tensions.

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Indian Wednesday May 29 1996

Ethnic imons

Andrew Cliff reports

The present state of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of ethnic origin or gender. Indeed the male to female balance of the population!

The House of Commons is a club for white middle-class males, and excluded from the gentlemen's club London. I have a composition, the satisfaction of the place!

There aren't any problems with the process of selection, the sense that the party is trying to prevent black people coming through. We are keen for more Asian people to come through!

There are no black Asians in New Labour's inner circle. He likes to take a much more positive approach. We get more black MPs, we need more consultation from the leadership!

Anger over baby milk 'cover-up'

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS, nurses and maternity groups yesterday accused the Government of leaving health professionals and parents in the dark about the risk from chemicals in powdered milk, as mothers jammed helplines seeking information.

Nine brands of infant feed tested by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food were found to contain chemicals, called phthalates, which in animal tests have been found to reduce fertility.

However, it is likely all such products contain the chemicals, not just the brands tested, manufacturers say. Phthalates are widely used in plastics for packaging, and can be found in milk and cheese. It is likely they are also present in breastmilk. However, the levels found in infant feed were well below safety levels set by the Euro-

pean Union's scientific committee for food.

'It is time for government ministers to end their evasiveness and complacency'

pean Union's scientific committee for food. Manufacturers yesterday insisted the products were safe, but said they would try to identify the source of the phthalates and reduce levels where possible.

The ministry said there was no point in naming the nine brands as they were safe. The Department of Health said there was no risk to babies.

But health and maternity groups said they had been left without information to give worried parents.

Sandra Rote, community health adviser to the Royal College of Nursing, said: "Nurses are desperate for advice on the current scare ... and feel seriously let down by the lack of information."

John Chisholm, deputy chairman of the family doctor committee of the British Medical Association, said that as with the recent contraceptive pill scare, GPs were unable to give patients reassurance as they had been told nothing by the Department of Health. He

added: "We should be sent the lab evidence so we can see if the brand reassurances given by ministers are correct. If there are risks, we need to know the brands involved."

Mary Newburn, head of policy research at the National Childbirth Trust, said its 400 branches had been swamped by calls from parents. "We want the Government to say what information it has about these brands."

Christine Cowdridge, director of the Maternity Alliance, a pressure group which campaigns for the rights of pregnant mothers and new parents, called on the Government to supply phthalate-free milk to baby units and publish the names of affected brands once alternative supplies of safe milk had been established.

"There is a cover-up and we need to have our minds put at rest," she said.

Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, said: "It is time for Government ministers to end their evasiveness and complacency. They must publish all appropriate information. Most people will be bewildered by the Government's disregard for public concern and the sheer ineptitude of its handling of the issue."

The baby milk industry is worth £180 million a year, with around 20 main brands. The big manufacturers in Britain are Cow and Gate Nutrition, Farleys (owned by Heinz), SMA Nutrition, Milupa and Boots. Some supermarkets make their own brands. Although Nestle is one of the world's biggest manufacturers, it does not sell its baby milk products here.

About 750,000 babies are born each year in Britain, and although 63 per cent of mothers begin by breast feeding, after six weeks only 39 per cent are doing so.

A spokeswoman for SMA Nutrition said: "Of course all the brands are involved. We have never denied that ... but there is absolutely no cause for concern."

A Heinz spokesman, who referred to "alarmist" media coverage of minute amounts of phthalates in infant formulas, added: "Farley's Infant Milks are completely safe and mothers can have complete confidence in them." A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said it had no plans to publish further information, adding: "There is no public health risk and no cause for concern."



Left, police searching for clues yesterday after the death of Johana Czardebón at the County Hotel in Bedford, above. Herman Otto, below, witnessed the shooting: 'It was horrible, a complete shock.'



German shot dead by robbers

A GERMAN tourist was shot dead when robbers burst into a hotel in Bedford yesterday.

Johana Czardebón, aged 56, was with her husband, Fritz, and other visitors from Bavaria in the bar of the County Hotel when two men in balaclavas and armed with sawn-off shotguns entered the reception just after midnight.

After holding up the manager and trying to break into the hotel's safe, the men entered the bar.

Seconds later one of the shotguns went off. Mrs Czardebón was hit in the head and died almost immediately. The

men, in their late twenties, ran off.

One tourist, Herman Otto, was struck by one of the gunmen seconds before the shot was fired.

He said: "A man with a mask came over and shoved the barrel of a gun in my tummy. I was in terrible pain. My wife was behind me and another woman was sitting behind her. Suddenly she was dead in her arms, covered in blood. It was horrible, a complete shock."

Superintendent Dick Read said the witnesses had been interviewed through interpreters, but were unclear

whether the gun was fired or went off accidentally. He added that Mrs Czardebón's husband was distraught, as were the rest of the party of 50 from Bamberg, Bedford's twin town in Bavaria. "The party can't believe it. In some ways their lives have been totally destroyed."

The party, which included the mayor of Bamberg and his wife, had arrived on Friday by coach for Bedford's biennial river festival.

A council spokeswoman said: "Everyone here is distressed. The visitors had just enjoyed the farewell dinner and our representatives had

just left when it happened."

A spokeswoman for the mayor said: "We are still too shocked to comprehend what has happened. Nobody would ever expect anything as horrific as this to happen in small communities like ours."

"It is honestly too soon to tell whether this incident will have any effect on our relationship, but it would be wrong to blame a whole town for this."

The party was allowed to leave yesterday for home. Mrs Czardebón had a 33-year-old daughter and three grandchildren. They were not with the party.

News in brief

Depeche Mode singer arrested

DAVID Gahan, lead singer of Depeche Mode, was under arrest last night in California after taking a drug overdose. Bail for Gahan, aged 34, has been set at \$10,000 (£6,600), a detective said at West Hollywood police station, where he is being held for investigation of cocaine possession and being under the influence of heroin.

Police and paramedics were called to the Sunset Marquis hotel in Hollywood, popular with musicians, and found Gahan unconscious on the floor of a hotel room at 1.15 am. The people with him, who summoned help, said he passed out 10 minutes after injecting a "speedball" — a mixture of cocaine and heroin. The singer was taken to the nearby Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and treated for an overdose. Later he was taken to the police station and booked.

Gahan, who lives in the Los Angeles area, was in hospital in August 1995 after slashing his wrist in a suicide attempt. The British band is known for such hits as Just Can't Get Enough and Personal Jesus.

Benefits help for carers

A CAMPAIGN to help carers starts today with the launch of a free phone helpline offering advice aimed at the thousands who fail to claim state benefits. Estimates suggest that some 50,000 carers could be eligible for the main benefit — Invalid Care Allowance of £86.60 per week — but are not currently claiming their entitlement.

Those carers on Income Support may be eligible for a "carers' premium" of £13 a week, and others could qualify for reductions in their council tax bills. The campaign is a partnership between the Family Welfare Association, Carers National Association (CNA), Scope (formerly the Spastics Society), and British Gas, which is providing the funding. "Many carers see what they do as a labour of love or as a family responsibility, mostly because they are caring for a loved one, and for that reason do not seek out the help that is widely available to them," said Jill Pitkeathley, CNA chief executive. — Jill Pitkeathley

French teenager found

FRENCH teenager Fanny Paltor was due to fly home to France last night after going missing for four days. Earlier, South Wales detectives travelled to interview the 17-year-old student who turned up at a police station in Islington, north London, after phoning her worried father. She had disappeared in Cardiff where she was working as a waitress, early on Saturday after leaving a nightclub.

Miss Paltor's parents were due to arrive in London last night from Beauvais-sur-Somme, south-west France, to collect their daughter. Earlier the student was reported to have told her father she had been assaulted. Police said they would be continuing inquiries in the South Wales area.

Shand Kydd must face court

FRANCES Shand Kydd, mother of the Princess of Wales, was yesterday ordered to appear in court on August 6 to answer drink-drive charges.

The order was made when Mrs Shand Kydd pleaded not guilty by letter to Oban sheriff court to charges of driving in the town with more than 2½ times the permitted level of alcohol, and refusing to give police a breath test, on April 5.

Mrs Shand Kydd commutes between her two isolated homes, on Seil Island, about 18 miles from Oban, Strathclyde, and Falkland in Fife.

Dambusters' file stays in UK

AN ARCHIVE from the RAF Dambusters' squadron, including the original battle order for the celebrated raid on Germany, was auctioned by Bonhams to an un-named British public institution for £8,325 yesterday.

The 50-page collection was put together by Harry Humphries, aged 80, who was adjutant of 617 Squadron from its inception in 1948 to 1949. It includes passport-sized photographs of the Lancaster pilots killed in the low-level "bouncing bomb" raids on German dams in May 1943.

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Before the storm... The Socialist Party leader, Servet Pellumbi, shouts anti-government slogans in central Tirana prior to being arrested yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ARMANDO BABANI

Poll monitors denounce ballot-rigging as ruling party orders violent clampdown by security forces

Albania faces new tyranny

Helena Smith in Tirana

RIOT police wielding clubs ended Albania's lingering hopes of a free and fair election yesterday as thousands of opposition party supporters, protesting at alleged ballot-rigging, attempted to demonstrate in the capital's central square.

In scenes reminiscent of the violence that precipitated the collapse of communism six years ago, police rounded on the protesters while the air resounded with anti-government slogans and international observers looked on.

Many opposition activists were beaten. More than 300 people — including several prominent Socialist Party figures — were arrested in the mêlée, although most of the leaders were later released.

"What we saw today was absolutely disgraceful," said Paul Keetch, a member of the British team brought in to monitor the Balkan state's third multi-party poll. "It has reconfirmed my belief that there are no limits at which the Democrats (the ruling party) will stop in order to retain power."

Last night, representatives from the eight parties which boycotted the polls when

voting took place on Sunday, said many people had been detained in police cells and were being "indiscriminately tortured".

At a hastily convened press conference, an array of blood-spattered opposition MPs displayed the scars and injuries they had sustained after being taken to police stations in the tense capital.

"In the same square six years ago the police beat us up because we were allegedly spoiling Albania's future by wanting an end to the Stalinist regime," said Blendi Goxhja, one of the student activists who helped form the Democratic party which

topped the old order in 1992. "Now they are beating us up because we supposedly want to bring back the very dictatorship we, ourselves, helped destroy. He [President Sali Berisha] has not won a victory, he has stolen the votes of Albanians and set up another dictatorship."

Although the monitoring team yesterday held back from releasing its detailed report on the election, officials from Britain, Germany and Norway issued a ringing denunciation of the way the ballot was conducted.

At polling booths across Europe's poorest country, the observers said they had seen

opposition voters being intimidated by armed members of the security forces working on the orders of the Democrats. Invalidated votes had been thrown "by the bundle" into ballot boxes.

"It is our conclusion that the will of the Albanian people was not expressed in a free manner in the elections," they declared.

Because of the abuses, the monitors agreed there was little point in remaining in the country to oversee balloting in the few constituencies that have yet to produce a candidate. Under Albanian law a second round should, in theory, be held this Sunday.

"I don't think any one of us would like to be seen legitimising the result," said Mr Keetch.

As a result of his self-proclaimed "crushing victory", President Berisha, who heads the Democratic party, is expected to control at least 124 seats in Tirana's 140-member parliament.

In an effort to pressure the international community to order a new poll, the opposition has vowed it will boycott the new parliament. Yesterday several leaders said they would also encourage their supporters to stage other demonstrations around Albania.

Communists feel cold of Prague spring

Ian Traynor reports on the unassailable ascendancy of Vaclav Klaus

IN Russia, the communists are once again knocking on the Kremlin's door. In Poland, they have recaptured the presidential Belvedere Palace in Hungary, they rule the monstrous mock-Gothic parliament by the Danube.

But in the Czech Republic, where the conservative prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, is just completing a successful four-year term and looking forward to a new mandate in elections this weekend, the communists fret impotently on the fringes.

While most of post-communist Europe suffers from reform fatigue gripped by nostalgia for the certainties of the undemocratic past, the Czechs alone beat a path towards the sunny uplands of anti-communist prosperity and freedom.

Such, at least, is the myth cultivated by Mr Klaus at every opportunity. "Among the other post-communist countries of Europe, the Czech Republic has a special position," he said this week.

It is not that the Czechs are congenitally more "anti-communist" than their neighbours. The elections on Friday and Saturday take place almost 50 years to the day since the Czech communists emerged as the strongest party in the first post-war poll. It was the only free election won by the communists in what was to become the Warsaw Pact.

But there is no ex-communist threat to Mr Klaus, aged 55, the most successful leader thrown up by the anti-communist and anti-Russian revolutions of 1989. The threat to his rightwing coalition comes instead from a reinvigorated Social Democratic Party led by Milos Zeman.

If the opinion polls are accurate, Mr Klaus's party will emerge comfortably as the single biggest grouping, but the social democrats could double their presence to around 50 in the 200-seat parliament. The question is whether Mr Klaus will win by enough to retain a majority or whether a hung parliament could produce a "grand coalition" of right and left.

On the surface, that would appear anathema to an abrasive Klaus, who regularly reiterates his Thatcherite credentials and devotion to the unfettered free market. But the rhetoric is belied by the policies he pursues and the length he is prepared to go to maintain the social peace.

"Klaus makes liberal conservative speeches for the International Monetary Fund but pursues social democratic realpolitik for popular accep-

tance," says Jan Mladek, a Prague economist.

Energy prices are subsidised. Rents are kept artificially low at about 20 per cent of the market rate. There is an extreme reluctance to invoke bankruptcy laws. There is no union-busting, but a tacit social contract between unions, employers and government that trades low wages for high employment.

The enviable result is a jobless rate of 3 per cent, about the lowest in Europe outside of Luxembourg. There is a guaranteed minimum income and, until last year, wage controls under which firms awarding excessive pay increases were fined.

All of these policies run counter to Mr Klaus's non-interventionist salesmanship, but have helped the most successful transition in the ex-Warsaw Pact.

Mr Klaus can also boast of a falling inflation rate of 2 per cent, modest by east European standards, a balanced budget, negligible foreign debt, and an economy that has been 90 per cent privatised during his four-year term. His popular mass

'Is he biding his time to unleash market forces? The jury's still out'

coupon scheme allots vouchers to the public for investing in companies via investment funds.

But the reality again contradicts Mr Klaus's radical free-market rhetoric. Most of these companies are owned by the banks, which in turn are still largely owned by the state. The investment funds themselves are largely owned by the banks, too.

Rather than the Anglo-Saxon model Mr Klaus professes to emulate, the ownership pattern more closely resembles the corporatist German system the prime minister affects to despise.

"It's a bank-led economy rather than capital market-led," says Jonathan Stein, economics researcher at Prague's East-West Studies Centre.

Unlike elsewhere in the region, there is no ex-communist threat to the Klaus ascendancy because post-Soviet reformed communists were rubbed out in Prague, reduced to a marginal rump.

Mr Klaus, who promises to double wages and pensions during the next four years, is looking good for a second term. That could reveal whether he is the Friedmanite marketeer he says he is.

"Is he a true believer just biding his time to unleash full market forces?" asks Mr Stein. "The jury's still out. It could be the best case language as an extreme rhetorical counter to transform the economy."

Boris Yeltsin can count on his rightwing man

Victoria Clark in Moscow spoke to the reclusive man behind Russia's largest neo-Nazi group

WITH warnings of civil war ahead of June's presidential election in the capital, Russia's largest neo-Nazi group is throwing its weight behind President Yeltsin.

"We are categorically against the Communists and will provide any help we can to Yeltsin to stop them coming," said Alexander Barkashov, the reclusive commander of the Russian National Unity Party (RNE), which claims around 25,000 members of pure Russian stock and trained in combat.

Mr Barkashov, an electrician by trade and a gangster in part, granted the Guardian an interview at his party headquarters — a cabin labelled Park Directorate in east Moscow's Terletsky Park.

Surrounded by a fence, the cabin is guarded by young blackshirts hired by the district authority to provide security for padding toddlers and grannies on benches. Sporting swastika armbands,

they hail Mr Barkashov with Nazi-like salutes.

"We are keeping law and order in accordance with the law — the arrangement is mutually beneficial," says Mr Barkashov, adding that he has struck the same sort of deal elsewhere in Russia. The RNE, or Barkashovists, as its adherents are better known, have branches in fourteen Russian regions and autonomous republics.

Mr Barkashov has changed his tune since October 1993 when he and hundreds of his battle-ready cohorts spearheaded the violent resistance to Yeltsin's dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. He was jailed but amnestied in February 1994.

The signs are that his boast of now enjoying support among top security, defence, and police officials is not entirely idle. He has escaped further prosecution despite the fact that the party's newspaper, Russian Order, openly calls for Jews and Gypsies to

be "fully eradicated at the earliest possible time" and describes democracy as an invention "by Zionists and Freemasons for the demoralisation of the nation and the seizure of world supremacy."

In his book, *Era of Russia*, Mr Barkashov set his movement in historical context.

"The reaction to national humiliation took place in Italy in 1922, in Germany in 1933, in Spain in 1936, and now it is taking place in Russia and the enemies of the Russian people are afraid of this reaction," he wrote.

His promise to help in any way to keep President Yeltsin in power is ominous — his followers have easy access to weapons, if only because most work as security guards.

Barkashov's quarrel with the Communist Party leader, Gennady Zyuganov, is about his nation's future. Mr Barkashov claims, is directly filched from his own writings and used as a cover for dihard communism. Mr Barka-

shov's and Mr Zyuganov's scribbles certainly bear more than a passing resemblance to each other; Russia's special mission in the world, the evils of Western civilisation and anti-semitism are common strands.

But Mr Yeltsin's continued occupancy of the Kremlin would suit Mr Barkashov for now. "It's more expedient to keep him there than to stir political passions," he said.

"We need more time before a truly national-patriotic bloc can take over."

Victor Dushinsky, a mainstay of Russia's small anti-fascist movement, explains that Mr Barkashov would not be overly upset by a Communist victory because he is quite convinced that a Zyuganov presidency will pave the way for him, that forces like his will have their turn next.

Mr Barkashov uses his park HQ as a recruitment centre. "Every Saturday 35 to 50 new people come here. We put them under quarantine for a month for political indoctrination," he said.

Sitting at a table under a photograph of him in a Hitler-

style double-breasted suit, touched-up blue eyes fixed in Führer-like contemplation, and a modified swastika at his side, Mr Barkashov devotes his Nazi influence.

"That salute is the most ancient Russian greeting of medieval times — the hand goes from the heart up towards God," he explained.

"What about the swastika?" "It has always been the main religious symbol for Russia, a symbol of kindness," he said.

But surely his mustache is Hitler's? "Oh no, I've got the mustache of a Russian aristocrat," he said with an engaging grin, adding: "Hitler's was a Charlie Chaplin mustache; I wouldn't be seen dead with such a thing."

Outside, a handful of shaven-headed youths await their commander's pleasure. One, a medical student, told me: "I'm not interested in politics, I'll vote as the commander orders."

Rising toll of suicides brings police on to Paris streets in cuts protest

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

UP TO 10,000 uniformed French policemen and women are expected to march through Paris today in protest at working conditions which are said to be causing suicides among officers.

Police trade unions have called the demonstration, which is officially illegal, in the wake of reports that

more than 30 officers have killed themselves this year.

The Fédération Autonome des Syndicats de Police (FASP) blames financial cuts and working practices which fall to take account of the traumatic nature of some police work.

"All that interests the government at the moment is saving money," said FASP's spokesman, Jean-Louis Arajo. "We are due for another set of cuts in

rural policing. The way it is going, the government will end up with an ultra-militarised force, made up of only the rougher elements."

The police demonstration — the first for five years — was initially banned by the interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, on the basis that it could disrupt public order. But Mr Arajo claimed the move only increased the resolve in police ranks. The last time officers marched through Paris, in 1991, the majority wore civilian clothes but there were clashes with non-uniformed riot police who had been brought in to control the demonstration.

Mr Arajo believes feelings are running higher now than in 1991. "In the past, we have demonstrated for better pay. Now we are seeing colleagues die from stress," he said.

According to Pierre-Henri Ceccaldi, chief medical officer for the French police, the number of suicides is increasing in line

with cuts which are forcing changes to working patterns. He said: "A police officer works intensively for two days, then rests for four. In 48 hours, the officer has destroyed two sleep cycles. This leads to burn-out, causing hyper-aggressivity."

Dr Ceccaldi said the majority of suicides are among officers in their forties with some years' experience. "When they are young, the officers can deal with disrupted sleep patterns. But once they are over 40, they suffer from mood swings and, ultimately, depression," he said.

The government last month pledged to order a reorganisation of shift patterns in the police force, but FASP officials have taken the promise with a pinch of salt. "There are going to be new cuts at the end of this month which are inconsistent with the government's claims to be willing to look at shift patterns," said Mr Arajo.

Ever wondered why there are so many soccer-worshipping alternative comics? It's not because they were abused children, it's because they were crap at football. Adam Sweeting

G2 page 4

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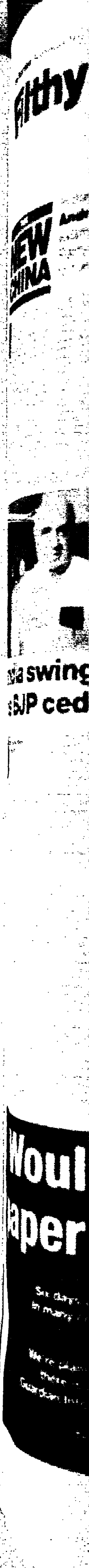
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Filthy foreigners arouse suspicion

NEW CHINA

In the first of a series of reports, Andrew Higgins in Beijing examines how the Communist Party is using distrust of the West to fuel resurgent nationalism

IN A village near the ruins of the Great Wall, China's fear of contamination by barbarians has brought officials wearing rubber gloves and surgical masks to confront a new, noxious menace from abroad.

Next to the village wheat fields looms a 639-tonne mountain of fetid rubbish imported from the United States. Disguised as recyclable waste paper to get past Chinese customs, the rotting heap contains sewage, syringes, pill bottles and dirty plastic.

Such abuse of China's open door has created a nationwide uproar symptomatic of the anger and suspicion China's leaders and many of its people now feel towards the West, particularly America.

Even students, who seven years ago placed a Chinese-style replica of the Statue of Liberty in Tiananmen Square, now often see America less as the standard-bearer for democracy than as the rival that sent two aircraft carriers towards Taiwan to thwart Chinese ambitions.

China's conservatives have long fulminated against Western "spiritual pollution" and the "anti-China hostility" of foreigners, but were mostly held in check by Mr Deng's emphasis on the primacy of economic development.

Over the past month, China's state-run media has pumped out regular reports on the threat posed by "foreign garbage" and uncovered

new cases of dumping, including radioactive waste in the western region of Xinjiang. The recent discovery of American garbage outside Beijing has aroused a great deal of concern and anger among the Chinese people.

China's leaders are seeking to capitalise on what has become, in the absence of any ideology other than nationalism, a wave of anti-foreign sentiment.

China's troops impress British commander

Reuter in Hong Kong
CHINA is expected to station up to 10,000 troops in Hong Kong when it takes over next year, the commander of British forces in the territory said yesterday.

Major-General Bryan Dutton described as excellent a meeting with the Chinese commander, Major-General Liu Zhenwu, adding: "The Peoples Liberation Army forces understand they have a lot of things to learn. And I'm impressed by their determination to get it right."

Macau affairs officer, Lu Ping, was quoted by the Xinhua news agency as saying China does not fear democracy in Hong Kong.

After 1997, so long as political parties in Hong Kong abide by local laws, they will continue to exist and be involved in elections, he said.



Revolving door . . . Atal Bihari Vajpayee (right) stands outside parliament before resigning yesterday. H. D. Deve Gowda (left) will be sworn in as PM on June 1 and has until June 12 to prove his unwieldy leftwing alliance can command a majority

India swings to the left as BJP cedes power

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi
INDIA'S prime minister for 13 days, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, resigned yesterday, robbing his enemies of the satisfaction of defeating his government in a no-confidence vote.

During two days of passionate debate, the regional chiefs accused the BJP of trying to impose an intolerant definition of Indian identity. "You have divided this country into the cow-belt and the non-cow belt," said G.G. Swell, an independent MP from the north-eastern state of Andhra Pradesh.

After assuming power, the BJP was circumspect about its campaign pledges to build a temple on the site of a 16th-century mosque that was destroyed by its activists in 1993, and to repeal Kashmir's special status.



'Philadelphia' discrimination slur angers top US law firm

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles
ASAN FRANCISCO law firm which saw 22 of its employees die of AIDS won the support and sympathy of the gay community, but now one of its HIV-infected former lawyers is suing it for \$4 million (\$2.6 million) over alleged discrimination.

Cape Town voters set to twist knife in De Klerk

Chris McGreal in Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA'S National Party is battling to prop up support in today's local elections in the Western Cape.

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Diary Matthew Norman

All battles there must necessarily be victims, and news reaches us of an early casualty in the war with Europe. An article on EU policy by Malcolm Rifkind...

It is, though, by no means one-way traffic. Spanish agriculture minister Loyola de Palacio, a devout member of hardline Catholicism...

WARS come and wars go. In Beirut, a TV news crew was surprised by the furious reaction of the man to whom they had just paid £5,000 for driving them around the city's most dangerous areas...

B AFFLING news from the Thistle group, whose Portland Hotel in Manchester recently prevented the Diary — a £120-a-night resident — from taking two friends to the hotel for coffee...

ON Monday, the Channel series, The Greater, concluded that Britain's finest-ever sportsman is the decathlete Daley Thompson...

CENSORSHIP visits the newly privatised railways. An ad for the Vegetarian Society has been banned from all Rail-track main-line stations...

NEWLY widowed Stella Serth has been convicted of a public-order offence in Tasmania. Mrs Serth has been fined £200 for dancing on her husband's grave and staging Who's Sorry Now?



Why the right people stay at home

Commentary Catherine Bennett

WELCOME to Burma, land of contrasts. To travel here is to discover a flamboyant rococo tapestry of exotic arts and culture, promises Abercrombie and Kent, the swell tour operator...

"Among the warmest and kindest to be found anywhere in the world." And yet — what a contrast! Among the cruelest and most tyrannical people to be found anywhere in the world...

Journalists returned with magical memories of one sort or another: the memory of chain gangs restoring the road to Mandalay and clearing its palace most by hand...

glimpses of an incredibly Orwellian society. We believe — now more than ever — that the postures of travel to Myanmar outweigh the negatives...

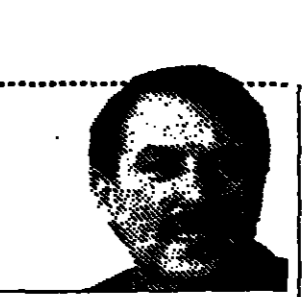
Should human rights interfere with their rights to burn under alien skies?

to difficult and bewildering territory have long been felt to boost about tokens of their ire and quest for enlightenment...

water that fills swimming pools. Why should peevish questions of human rights interfere with their right to burn under alien skies and arrive home with drool anecdotes about gypsy tumans?

There can be few more genuine travellers than Roly Davidson, the author of Desert Days, the transfixing story of her attempts to live at one with the Rabari nomads of north-west India...

Don't waste the last chance for peace



Mitchell McLaughlin

IAN Paisley and David Trimble have announced that the issue of constitutional change in the North of Ireland is placed on the negotiating table...

respect for all the mandates achieved in elections and explicit guarantees that the negotiations will be inclusive, meaningful and focused...

The baby-milk scare is the latest manifestation of a culture ill at ease with 'progress' and these brief obsessions distract us from bigger questions, argues John Vidal

Be very afraid

IF it's May, we should fear milk and mad cows. In June, let's worry about water (drinking) and in July water (sea). Don't touch eggs in August...

or BMW. CFCs (let alone HCFCs) do not exactly sound as if they could burn a hole in the upper atmosphere...

the new linear logic of computer language. We do everything we can to avoid facing up to issues which the youngest child can grasp...

wrong with the way we are living, yet no one seems to want to say anything about it. And now we have reached the situation in OECD countries where there is a real, underlying fear in society...

which has been affected by modernity. It is a fear not of the unknown, but of the other society in history. Scientists, technologists and politicians, the architects of the development path we call 'progress'...



Never say nuclear

Paul Brown on the risks which we choose to fear

BRITISH Energy fails to include the N-word in its name, and barely mentioned "nuclear" in the advertising campaign for its shares, launched yesterday...

to be the key to the perceived risk. Yet smoking and driving, both very real risks, are readily accepted by many as a normal part of everyday life...

a long experience of these issues, but has never found an answer. It initially sought to tackle the problem by avoidance (changing the name of Windscale to Sellafield) — but failed...



Aldershot regrets the down the Government

of brotherly love

try Diary

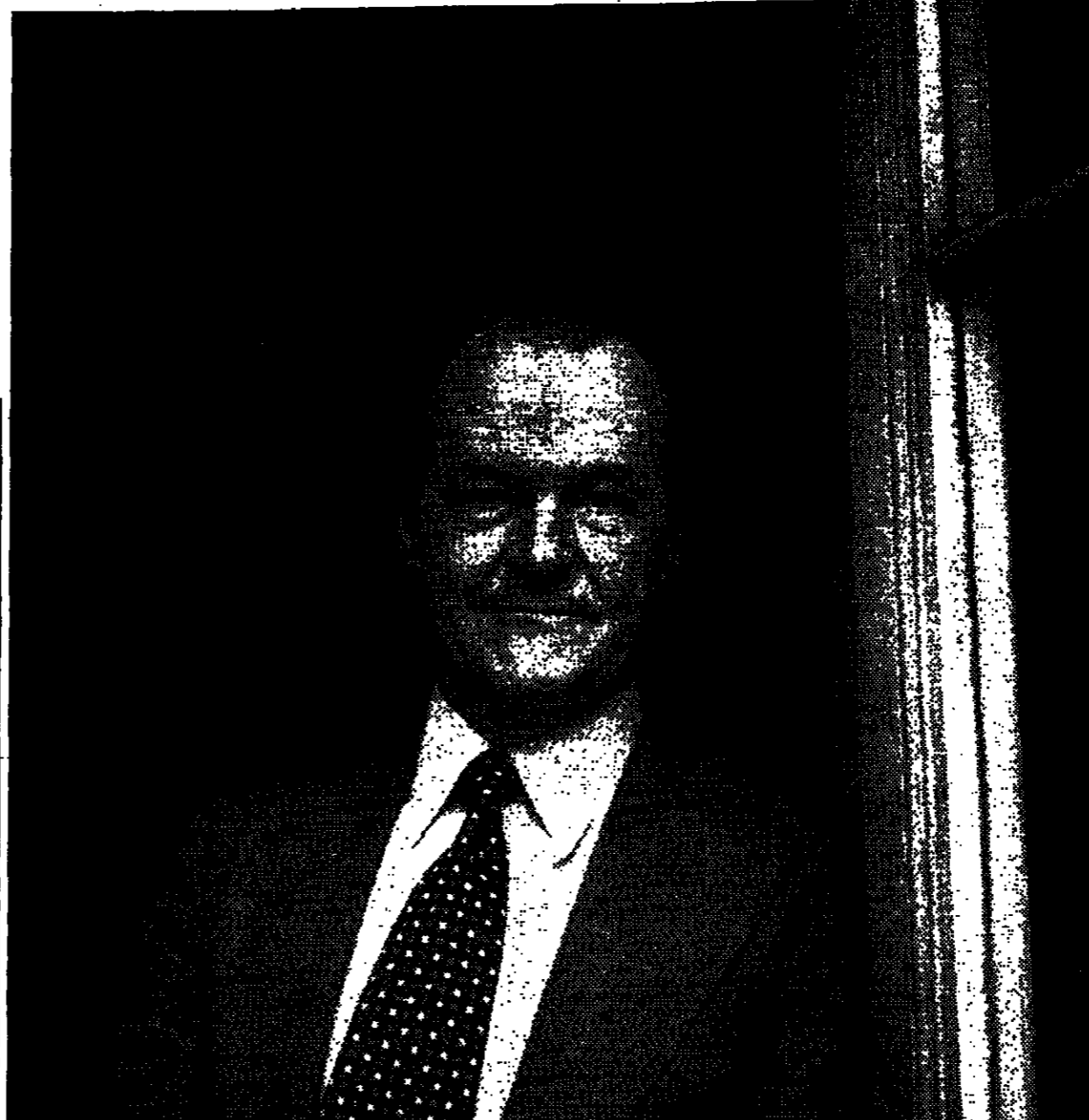
Advertisement for WALLGUARD ceramic tube system of damp proofing. Includes text: 'RISING DAMP? TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD', 'A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS', and contact information for WALLGUARD.

John Haycraft

English with inspiration

JOHN Haycraft, who has died aged 69, was an intellectual pioneer of the post-imperial age. He devised an imaginative system for teaching English as a foreign language...

enlivened — but was too unconventional to be acceptable. He lived unpretentiously with Brita, his indispensable collaborator, at Blackheath, where they brought up three lively children...



Dedication in place of domination... Haycraft created a new kind of British internationalism

quality assurance can so often be reduced to the mechanistic checking off of requirements on a list, his life shines like a beacon. Not for him the mere provision of paper evidence...

least appreciated exports: its old man. I shall remember him for his championship of the teachers and the students of English as a foreign language...

What I shall remember John for most, however, is not his dedication to the field in which I work, important though that was. Like many others, I shall remember him for his kindness, for his sense of humour, for his urbanity...

north, "no edge". John made all of his associates feel important, he had what the Spanish so charmingly call don de gentes. He will be much missed.

John Stacpoole Haycraft, director International House, born December 11, 1926, died May 23, 1996

Letters

Pai Andrews writes: As a teenage theatregoer at the Windsor Rep, I could never forget Patrick Cargill (obituary, May 24). A master of inclusive timing and impeccable wit...

It had to retain one memory of him it would be as the frustrating, ruthless director in Odets' Winter Journey. His straight acting was every bit as impressive as his gift for comedy...

Martin Berry writes: Many, like me, must have been deeply shaken to see Jim Ferrin's obituary of Jack Baines (May 24). It was one of life's delights to receive Jack's latest catalogue of second-hand mountaineering books...

R J Stowell writes: So who directed the shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho? It seems highly likely that both Saul Bass (Richard Hollis's obituary, April 27) and Hitchcock (Gerald Kaufman's letter, May 9) did.

It is claimed that Hitchcock was briefly ill during the film's shooting and that he suggested Bass film some of the sequence from his own very detailed storyboard; these sections are likely to have featured the stand-in (used for some of the nude shots) and not Janet Leigh — all of whose scenes therefore may well have been filmed by Hitchcock himself.

The conundrum as to which and what proportion of the shots were made by the director and which by his "visual consultant" is unlikely to be resolved, and surely doesn't really matter. As Hitchcock followed Bass's storyboard extremely closely and often found the actual filming of scenes extremely boring in his case, I don't think "shooting some pictures" as Kaufman put it, very much does "a director make".

Death Notices

CARRUTHERS, Ian Douglas, Professor of Agrarian Development at Wye College, University of Reading, died on May 28th after a short illness. Funeral services at Wye Church, Wye, Surrey, on Tuesday, June 4th at 11.00. Burial at Wye Cemetery. Donations to Amnesty International, 99 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4SP.

HANSON, Mrs Doris, 84, died on May 28th at home aged 83. She was the wife of the late Mr. H. Hanson, Head of English at Lewes Wood High School and former Headmaster of Lewes Wood High School. She was a devoted wife of the late Professor Harry Hanson, member of the Royal Society and a distinguished physicist. She was also a member of the British League of Women Voters and a member of the British League of Women Voters. She was a devoted wife of the late Mr. Hanson, Head of English at Lewes Wood High School and former Headmaster of Lewes Wood High School. She was a devoted wife of the late Mr. Hanson, Head of English at Lewes Wood High School and former Headmaster of Lewes Wood High School.

Mary Perot Nichols, journalist, born October 15, 1927; died May 21, 1996

In Memoriam

FITZGERALD, Shelley (nee Hall) MSc, born on 29th May 1934 and died on 28th November 1995. Remembered.

Births

ARNOLD BRODMAN, Vladimir and Polina of the USSR, arrived in the UK on May 28th after a long stay in the USSR. They are now residing at 11, St. James's Place, London W1P 0JL. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research.

Lt-Commander Geoffrey Hodges Defusing death from the sky

Geoffrey Hodges, who has died aged 87, was the hero of an unjustly forgotten corner of the wartime navy called Rendering Mines Safe (RMS) by the Admiralty but the Suicide Squad by the cognoscenti. Bomb disposal is usually seen as an army monopoly, but the mine was a maritime weapon invented in the American civil war...

attached into enemy offshore minefields. Hodges cut his teeth on conventional mines beached by the tide, earning his first mention in dispatches as early as January 1940. But within days of the start of the Blitz the Germans began to drop parachute mines. A typical parachute mine was a cylinder eight feet long and two feet in diameter weighing 1,500 pounds, which would swing from side to side until it struck the ground at 40mph. The slow descent was both to protect the delayed-action fuse and to maximise the effect of blast. Even so, the 30-second fuse was often damaged, which was where Hodges and RMS came in.

HE WAS called to unexploded mines in downed aircraft as far apart as Northern Ireland and the Scottish Highlands and those dropped deliberately over London suburbs such as Walthamstow and Richmond. When a mine landed in a city some case-hardened members of the public would run towards it, either because they thought it was a German airman to beat up or they wanted the parachute silk for clothing. When Hodges's party succeeded in defusing the Walthamstow mine, local people returning to their evacuated homes paused to applaud the navy men. In Richmond, Hodges and his team were twice on duty against mines and experimenting with new methods, including bare-brained inventions such as sending fish with magnets



Hodges... cold courage

bomb disposal's badge of courage, the George Medal. The gamekeeper turned poacher in 1942 when Hodges went to the Mediterranean to sow mines from the first mine-layer HMS Abdiel — itself later sunk by an enemy mine. He was another mention in dispatches. By now a lieutenant-commander and one of the navy's leading experts in his dangerous field, Hodges took charge of mining operations for the Normandy invasion in June 1944 and later laid mines in the Arctic to help the Soviets. He was educated at Winchester and the Carnegie Institute in Dunderberg, from which he emerged with a degree in physical education. He then returned to Winchester to teach, a career he resumed after the war.

On his retirement from Winchester College he became education officer at the local prison. In his spare time Hodges was a committed Anglican, serving as vicar at Winchester Cathedral. He also became an expert on antique silver. He married Evis Marshall in 1937; they had one son. Dan was the war.

Geoffrey Hodges, bomb disposal expert, born September 8, 1908; died May 6, 1996

Mary Perot Nichols Saviour of Washington Square

FROM the 1920s to the 1980s one man, Robert Moses, masterminded the infrastructure of modern New York city and state. His influence swelled with every decade, until the late 1960s. Then one woman, Mary Perot Nichols, who has died of cancer aged 68, played a key role in a historic victory over the great planner. While Britain was enthusiastically designing its first motorway, Nichols, a young journalist on the city's Village Voice weekly, was writing and campaigning against Moses's scheme for a highway through Greenwich Village's historic Washington Square, and the Lower Manhattan Expressway. If the United States was home of the automobile and pioneer of motorway hell then it was New York state, under Moses's influence, that paved the good intentions. Moses's roads linked — via Moses's bridges — Moses-designed parks and reservoirs, dams and beaches. He revolutionised and initially enriched the lives of the people of the state. Yet by the time of the Washington Square battle, to young journalists including Nichols, the master planner was — as his

biographer Robert Caro wrote "an arrogant, dictatorial old man". Nichols and others pointed out the cost of the master planner's megalomaniacal schemes; evictions, blighted neighbourhoods, more congestion and spreading financial and political corruption. The local Tammany Hall Democratic Party machine was in lock to Moses, as was Mayor Robert Wagner.

The anti-Moses campaigners also sketched out the shape of a politics to come. They were young, often — but not invariably — middle class, articulate, and focused on single-issue activism. An aspiring local politician, Ed Koch, was amongst the group's allies. Nichols herself was from an affluent Philadelphia family and having always wanted to live in New York, had no desire to see Moses ruin it. After graduating from Swarthmore College in the late 1940s she married and moved to the city. Thus was Washington Square saved and Tammany crippled. Koch went on to become NYC's increasingly rightwing mayor from the 1970s into the 1990s. As for Nichols, she remained with the Voice, campaigned successfully against the eviction of poet e e cummings from his apartment, took two years off in the 1960s to work for the (briefly) glamorous mayor John Lindsay — who made her "puke" she said later — and then in the mid-1970s was sacked. Koch's political shift matched her own. In 1978 she was appointed by the then mayor to head the city's radio and television stations, and with a two-year gap remained in the post until 1980. She was a visiting journalism professor at New York University at the time of her death.

Mary Perot Nichols, journalist, born October 15, 1927; died May 21, 1996

Divorced, she leaves two daughters and a son. Hers was not the only pen raised to save that wonderful Square, but it was a significant one — and helped start a habit.



Mary Nichols... battling a megalomaniac planner

Birthdays

Colin Amery, architectural writer and historian, 52; Michael Berkeley, composer, 48; Sir Douglas Black, former chief scientist to the Department of Health, 68; Sir Christopher Blundell, chairman, BBC, 58; Katie Boyle broadcaster, 67; Rupert Everett, actor, 37; Eleanor Fazan,

opera and show choreographer, 66; Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Minister of State for Scotland, 51; Lt-Gen Sir Martin Garrod, former Commander General, Royal Marines, 61; Linda Keith Grey, opera singer, 48; Patricia Harris, central president, The Mothers' Union, 57; Sir Trevor

Holdsworth, pianist, former chairman, National Power, 68; Bob Hoop, comedian, 93; Prof Robert Knox, bacteriologist, 91; Alan Langlands, chief executive, NHS management executive, 44; Sir James Marjoribanks, chairman, Scotland in Europe, 65; Nanette Newman, actress

Jackdaw



Charles III

CHORUS: For now sad Charles unto the throne is come. First his drunk grandam fell down in a fit and died, And then a semibreve later his Mother Queen Bit by a rabid Gorgi ran naked through the streets, Froth'd at the mouth and breath'd her last. So Charles was crown'd; but now the angry mob Demand that he be brought to Tyburn Tree — Such is the curse on all odd-numbered Charles' Scene I: A health CHARLES: To rule or not to rule, that is the question.

Rubber online

IT'S easy to send gifts from Condo Country. Just follow these steps. Sign in with an existing account or Establish a New Account as yourself. Browse our catalogue and place the gift items in your shopping bag. Enter the Check Out Lane. Choose from gift features. You can add a note to the shipment, remove the prices from the invoice, and even send the gift anonymously. Tell us how you are going to pay for it. Condo Country Catalogue. Trojan Condoms: America's No.1 brand. Levi's Old Spice. Harley Davidson. Trojan. The Trojan condom is a timeless American classic. Used by your father and older brother, the Buz and the Ribbed are the granddaddy of all condoms-tried and true, always ready for the roughest action and the toughest tours of duty. The Very Sensitive is designed to give you maximum pleasure and maximum protection. But this is not your Father's old Trojan. Check out the new UltraSature. It's textured with spirals on the outside and microdots on the inside. For mutual pleasure. The Very Sensitive model features a custom designed shape, ideal for providing the wearer with maximum sensation. And the Trojan Assortment Pack is great for those who don't want to have to choose between Trojan's best-selling brands or just want a little variety from their day-to-day condom use. Troyan. Get back to the basics. No more numbled words at the counter with Condo Country online. Trojans are just one of the many condoms on offer. http://www.condo.com

Good moves

THE Daily Exercises. 1. A good eye exercise — see the everlasting beauty in human kindness. 2. A good tongue exercise — speak from the heart instead of the mouth. 3. A good facial exercise — a smile often repeated. 4. Hearing exercise — think only constructive thoughts. Good reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. 5. Leg exercise — walk toward knowledge, wisdom,

Dream plot

THE subconscious mind never sleeps; the creative process never stops. If you're a writer, that means you can "write" while you sleep. The key to achieving this seemingly unbelievable feat lies in knowing how to make the most of a very natural sleep phenomenon — dreaming. If you plan your dreams carefully, they will direct you to the writer's life that you want for yourself. Let's say the main character in your story doesn't yet seem like a real person to

How the Tories plan to win

STATESMAN: How the Tories plan to win. New Statesman: kingly verse

Good stock

"I HAD done the usual thing, writing to lots of actors begging money, but got nowhere. They were very kind and encouraging but obviously they

get bombed with something. So I had to get to think of something which would be noticed and come up with the idea of making myself into a limited company.

There are 100 shares available in Caroline Anna at £100 each. At her first annual general meeting it will be decided how much Caroline should take from her company as wages and the rest will be distributed amongst shareholders. Celebrities who have been persuaded to part with their hard-earned cash for a stake in Caroline include John Gielgud, Cameron Mackintosh, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Emma Thompson, Ben Elton, Bob Hoskins, Richard Wilson, and Hayley Mills. Student grant ideas in The Stage. Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4966; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Emily Sheffield

Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page.

Four letters arrive. An angry letter from a reader who says that the newspaper should not be allowed to publish letters from readers who are not registered with the newspaper.

Another letter from a reader who says that the newspaper should not be allowed to publish letters from readers who are not registered with the newspaper.

are

Death Notices

In Memoriam

Births

Emily Sherrin

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Another former director pays the price for his part in bank's £1 billion collapse

City expels Barings chief

Dan Atkinson
A SECOND former top director of the Barings financial empire has been expelled from the City for his role in the bank's near-£1 billion collapse last year, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Broadhurst is one of nine facing disciplinary action for failing to control "rogue traders" Nick Leeson's wild gambles on financial markets. The severity of his punishment may be partly related to the fact that, according to a Bank of England report, he should have known returns made to regulators were inaccurate and he took part in a request to auditors to ignore a suspect transaction.

The City for three years and changed him £1,000 costs. Yesterday, it announced an identical penalty for Mr Broadhurst, who was formerly finance director of the investment-bank subsidiary. The SFA said Mr Broadhurst had failed to act with "due skill, care and diligence". In particular, he had failed to check on the top-up money requested by Leeson's chronically loss-making Singapore offshoot, he failed properly to record this money and he failed between January 20 and February 24, 1995, to invest and act upon a £30 million "rogue transaction"

on the books of Leeson's operation. Leeson was given a six-and-a-half-year jail sentence in Singapore for offences in connection with the collapse. On March 15, the SFA, which had been investigating the Barings collapse from March 1995 announced it had begun proceedings against "a number of persons", thought to total nine.

Mr Broadhurst was criticised in the July 1995 report into Barings of the Board of Banking Supervision. It said he and other senior officers failed to act on a summer 1994 internal Barings report suggesting a tightening of controls in Singapore.

Furthermore, he was one of those who failed to control the top-up payments, and shared the blame for the "serious failure" of top brass in London ever to investigate how Leeson's operation could be making the sort of profits it was claiming.

Notebook

Mixing utilities would be mistake



Edited by Alex Brummer

IMAGINE the brouhaha if a power group from south of the border — say the Eastern Group — were to make a bid for Scottish Power, or the water authorities in Scotland, which are still in municipal hands. The politicians would never wear it.

whelming. Scottish Power appears to be taking advantage of the small political window before an election to consolidate its hold over power and water supply in the UK.

Deutsche shift

DEUTSCHE Bank would like to become a modern global bank. It has already switched the focus of its investment banking business to London through Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, risking the ire of those who want to see Frankfurt's status as a European financial centre.

Now there is another break with tradition. At the annual shareholder meeting board spokesman, Hilmar Kopper, revealed that the bank's traditional management structure is to be swept aside.

The future of engineering group Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz hangs in the balance because managers at one of its subsidiaries have, allegedly, been systematically hiding losses of hundreds of millions of marks.

That is just the thing expected of a bank under Rinebold capitalism, but rather less so under the Anglo-Saxon model. After all, think of the impact on those performance related share options.

Public to get 30pc in nuclear sell-off

Chris Barrie

THE public is to be offered at least 30 per cent of the shares in the nuclear industry with the promise of a dividend four months after its privatisation in July, government advisers said yesterday.

As a \$4 million advertising campaign for British Energy got under way this week, the Government took the wraps off what is likely to be its last big sell-off before the election. The press and television advertising campaign, which includes the tag line "A final burst of energy", uses pictures of athletes and includes discreet references to nuclear power. As with Railtrack, the marketing is aimed at investors who have already bought shares through government offers.

To sweeten the offer further, British Energy will forecast dividends for both the half-year and full-year, allowing investors to get a certain of two first-year payouts.

The public must register with a share shop to qualify for incentives and preference. Some 10,000 high-street outlets are acting as share shops, including banks, building societies and stockbrokers. Registrations began yesterday.

Although British Energy and the Government have yet to finalise the size of the offer, it is likely that the offer will be sold in two tranches. The final value will depend on an international tender offer to institutions, but is likely to range from £1.5 billion to £2 billion.

Tom Reid, a director at brokers BZW, which is advising the Government on the sale, said institutional interest had been "very favourable".

Labour called for the sale to be abandoned. Shadow energy spokesman John Battle dismissed the sell-off as "desperate cash for cash" and a bad deal for the taxpayer.

British Energy's pathfinder prospectus, which reveals crucial financial information about the company, will be published on June 10 and dealings in the shares are due to start in mid-July.

Unions representing nuclear industry staff met managers last night to urge them to increase this year's 3.5 per cent pay offer amid indications that the workforce had ballooned to reject the offer by nine to one.



Setting agenda... Shadow foreign secretary Robin Cook watches Peter Mandelson MP chair Opposition's conference

Labour unveils six-point plan for Europe

Michael White

LABOUR yesterday set out a six-point blueprint for replacing Britain's "odd-man-out" role inside the European Union.

It called for a positive approach to strengthening an enlarged single market, reforming the EU budget and tackling chronic job insecurity in ways that would benefit both business and workers.

Ahead of the CBI's Business in Europe Week, Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary said New Labour will urge adopted candidates to discuss ways of improving the workings of the EU with their local chambers of commerce.

Determined to stress the Prime Minister's increasingly negative stance during the beef crisis Mr Cook highlighted the need to:

push ahead with extending the single market, especially in sectors of British strength like telecommunications, energy and biotechnology as well as deepening it via better enforcement of the rules and the prevention of "new trade barriers";

fast integration of the economies of up to 12 applicant states with 100 million potential new consumers;

along with reforms to make a 30-strong EU work better;

reform of the huge common agricultural policy (CAP) budget to reflect industrial priorities and enlargement to the East, plus a drive against fraud;

NatWest set to offload 3i stake for £460m

Patrick Donovan City Editor

NATWEST Group is cashing in on the strength of 3i shares. It announced yesterday that it was considering selling its near-18 per cent stake in the venture capital firm in an estimated £460 million deal.

The proposed sale, which will make NatWest the third leading bank to sell off its holding in 3i since the company was floated nearly two years ago,

would be marketed directly to institutional investors. But private investors could also be given the chance to pick up shares through financial intermediaries.

The deal represents yet another step in NatWest's drive to concentrate on the three main areas of its investment banking and broking operations: retail banking and the up-market Coutts network.

It comes just weeks after NatWest completed the £2 billion sale of its Bancorp retail operation in the

US, making the group one of the most cash-rich institutions in the City.

British Airways to buy Boeing's biggest

Mark Tran in New York

BITISH Airways is understood to have ordered as many as 30 of Boeing's largest aircraft in a deal valued at more than \$4.2 billion (£2.8 billion).

BA has already ordered 15 Boeing 777s, each with seating capacity for 300 people. The latest batch will include another 15 777s and 15 440-seat 747s. BA operates about 200 Boeing aircraft.

Boeing has had an extraordinary streak recently. It suffered a setback in China, where the authorities ordered some planes from European rival Airbus amid growing trade and political tensions between Beijing and Washington.

BA is likely to shop with Boeing again as it is seen as a customer for upgraded versions of the 747. These planes, which can fly further and carry more passengers, will be available later this year.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 1,842\$	France 7,98	Italy 2,312	Singapore 2,08
Canada 1,820\$	Germany 2,260	Mexico 2,54	South Africa 6,41
Belgium 46,50	Greece 300,00	Netherlands 2,5350	Spain 186,24
Canada 2,025	Hong Kong 11,39	New Zealand 2,15	Sweden 10,17
Cyprus 1,660\$	India 63,10	Norway 3,74	Switzerland 1,825
Denmark 6,79	Ireland 0,94	Portugal 233,00	Turkey 113,446
Finland 7,14	Israel 4,94	Saudi Arabia 5,63	USA 1,4750

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

1,000 jobs at risk as west country dairy goes under

Pauline Springett and Tony May

A THOUSAND dairy jobs in the west country were at risk last night after Cricklet St Thomas Dairies, based in Somerset, went into administration with debts of around £40 million.

The company — which employs 400 staff at its main dairy with the remaining 600 at 16 depots throughout Somerset, Devon and Dorset — had over-extended itself by rushing into a series of acquisitions. The dairy uses 600,000 litres of cows milk each day to supply milk and cream products through shops and door-to-door services.

from brewer Whitbread, which is expanding its nationwide chain of family pubs and creating 2,700 jobs.

Whitbread meanwhile, announced it is investing £105 million to open 70 so-called family pubs. The group is to open 52 Brewers Fayre pub restaurants plus 20 Family Inns, developed from existing public houses.

The bleak job-loss news was offset by an announcement

of the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the dairy was a major employer in the area "it would be a great shame if it was not saved. It is well known and has served the area well and faithfully for many years."

Some established local pubs will be developed into Family Inns, which will keep their original public bar to help retain regular drinkers. However, they will also feature family eating and drinking areas with children's entertainment.

Now loot is in the eye of the beholder as cameras move in

Mark Tran in New York

CASH dispensing machines that identify customers by looking them in the eye with a hidden camera are being developed by American technology company Sensar.

Sensar is touting the superiority of its Irisident system on the grounds that the iris, the coloured part of the eye, has more unique physical characteristics than even fingerprints. The iris also remains constant with age unlike other body parts.

With its Irisident system, there will be no need to use a card and pin number to get cash. A customer will look into a camera that will scan the 400 or so identifying features of his or her iris, matching them with a database.

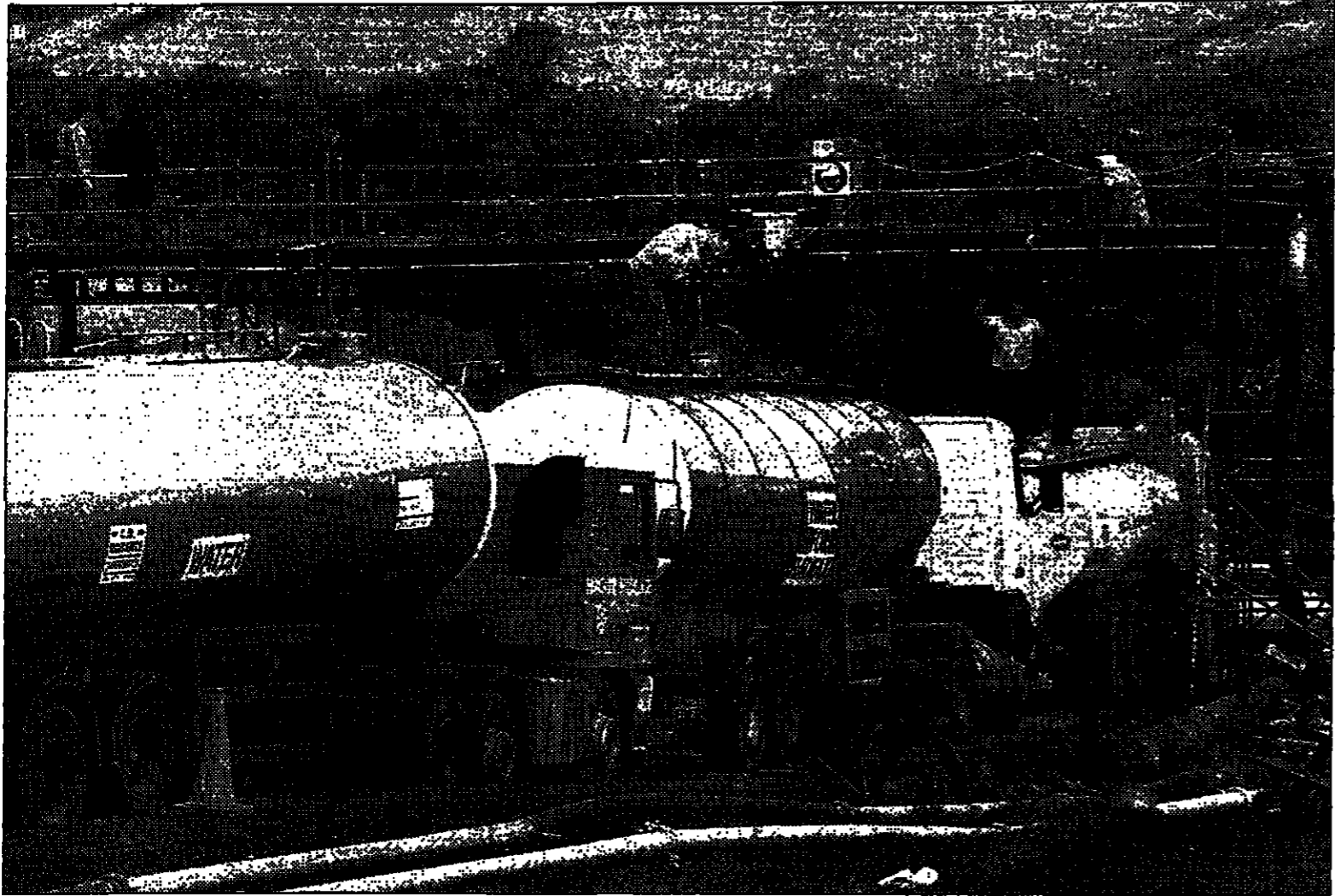
But Kevin McQuade, Sensar's vice president for strategic business development, asserts that Irisident's error rate is one in 10,000, which is significantly lower than other biometric systems. Irisident uses military targeting developed at Sarnoff, adapted so that the hidden camera can spot a person approaching and zoom in on the right iris immediately.

The system is designed to work through most glasses, contact lenses and even sunglasses. The one problem may be people with very dark eyes.

NCR, the world's biggest maker of cash dispensers, has been talking with Sensar for more than a year on a possible deal.

Sensar, a subsidiary of the David Sarnoff Research Centre in Princeton, New Jersey, is a company in the growing field of biometric identification, which uses unique physical characteristics such as voice, fingerprints and eyes rather than ID cards or codes to confirm identity.

Banks in Arizona, Nevada and Texas already require customers to provide a fingerprint as a way of staying ahead of criminals.



Come Halifax or high water... The drought-busting tankers have helped to make Yorkshire a prime takeover target

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFEE

Water comes to the boil

OUTLOOK/ Southern is in the bid frame, but who will be next? Ian King considers the contenders

AS THE City digested Scottish Power's £1.56 billion bid for Southern Water and waited for a rival bid from Southern Electric yesterday, the heat was turned up under water stocks while the Square Mile braced itself for more turmoil in the sector.

Already among the 10 water companies privatised in 1989, Northumbrian Water — which supplies the North-east — has gone under, snapped up last year for £283 million by French group Lyonnaise des Eaux. Since then, South

West Water, purveyor of the nation's highest water bills, has attracted rival bids from Severn Trent and Wessex Water, both of which have been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Now the question is: who's next? Never short to come up with answers of its own, the market has some suggestions, with shares of Anglian, Wessex and Yorkshire Water all marked up sharply in early trading. There are specific reasons for these three being put in the takeover frame. First, Welsh Water and

North West Water have already bought their local regional electricity companies, which effectively rules them out.

Respectively renamed Hyder and United Utilities, these outfits have become the first of the so-called "super utilities", with a size and spread of business that would make takeover difficult. For instance, with both companies now operating electricity distributors, it is unlikely that Trade Minister Ian Lang would — given his recent decisions — sanction their takeover by a generator, such as Scottish Power, or possibly even a rival water company.

Secondly, two more water companies, Thames Water and Severn Trent — with respective market values of £2.3 billion and £2 billion — are seen as too big for a rival bidder to swallow. In fact, Thames is seen by many as being more likely to be a predator than a target, with both a counter-bid for Southern Water or some form of tie-up with London Electricity both touted as possibilities yesterday. More significantly, both have heavy capital expenditure commitments, making them even less palatable for a bidder.

That leaves Anglian, with a market value of £1.5 billion; Yorkshire, valued at £1.4 billion; and Wessex, with a capitalisation of £716 million, as the most likely takeover targets.

Of these, Anglian looks slightly safer. It is reasonably

well-regarded by City followers, boasts one of the most modern infrastructures in the water industry, and is one of the few water companies to have enjoyed good publicity for maintaining supplies during last year's drought.

By contrast, some analysts saw Yorkshire Water as a sitting duck yesterday, highlighting the string of public relations disasters the company has suffered. As South West Water has already found out to its cost, poor public relations can put a company into play all too easily, and Yorkshire has accumulated a string of gaffes to put even the men from the west country in the shade.

Finally, there is Wessex, which — apparently in recognition of its vulnerability — bid \$650 million for South West Water in March. It, too, is seen as a possible bid target, although US company Waste Management International — which holds a near 18 per cent stake in the group — would represent a formidable obstacle to any hostile bidder.

Despite these possibilities, analysts are divided about where the next bid will come from, or, indeed, whether there will even be any. According to David Campbell, water analyst at Greig Middleton, the bid for Southern is no great surprise, since the company has historically been regarded as a bid candi-

date and been given an appropriate rating by the market — complete with a bid premium.

He added: "These factors don't apply elsewhere, and although takeovers might be on somebody's agenda, we don't expect a flood of them."

If there are any more water bids in the offing, they should emerge over the next couple of months, providing a windfall for investors. By then, however, a change of government, heralding a tougher regulatory regime — and possibly a windfall tax — will also be imminent, putting increasing pressure on the shares.

For that reason, investors should keep their fingers crossed for further bid speculation — and look out for any chance to take profits.

Now PVC's image tarnished in wake of baby milk panic

Government left with more egg on face as campaigners target plasticiser dangers, says Roger Cowe

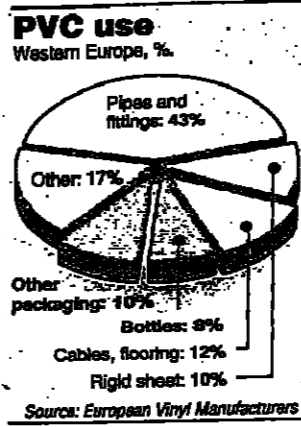
THIS week's food scare, about the danger of contamination in baby milk powders, is more than just another embarrassment to a government whose credibility has been undermined by its handling of the beef affair.

It is also a threat to the image of plastic, particularly PVC, as a safe, reliable, convenient and cheap material and provides further ammunition to environmentalists, who have already locked horns several times with the chemical industry.

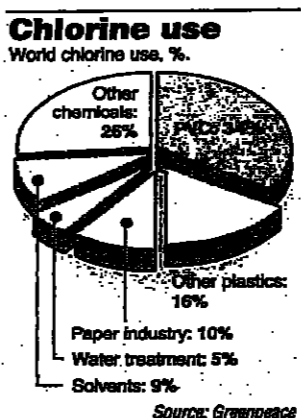
The culprit this time is a group of plasticisers known as phthalates, produced in this country mainly by BP Chemicals, and used largely to make PVC flexible. One of the main concerns about the baby milk contamination is that it is not clear where the phthalates have come from. "We have not been able to figure it out," said John Svastander, director of the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers.

But it has been known for years that phthalates can be dangerous. The first scientific paper on the subject was published in 1952. In that case the plastic "host" was cellulose acetate, but nowadays almost all phthalate use is with PVC. That doesn't mean all PVC bags contain the offending plasticiser. Most PVC used in food packaging is rigid, such as sandwich boxes. Many flexible plastic bags are made from polyethylene or polypropylene, not PVC, and do not need plasticisers.

PVC has been used in products such as clingfilm, and consumers were warned some years ago that in some cases the chemicals could migrate to the food, especially when the film was wrapping fatty products such as cheese. Non-



PVC clingfilm quickly emerged on the supermarket shelves but it doesn't cling nearly so well. Roger Mottram of European Vinyls Corporation, Europe's main PVC manufacturer, said he did not know of any PVC packaging producer in this country that uses phthalates. But they are still used in other PVC products such as hoses and conveyor belts. Concerns about phthalates



have been intensified recently by worries about their impact on reproduction. Greenpeace has been bombarding the Government with warnings that PVC would be the next mad cow disease. The latest missive was handed to agriculture minister Douglas Hogg yesterday. "We have had very little response," a Greenpeace spokeswoman admitted yesterday. But for Greenpeace this is part of a longer and wider campaign, aimed not just at PVC but ultimately at the whole chlorine industry, which it regards as fundamentally flawed and dangerous for the environment.

The chlorine industry, represented in this country by ICT's huge Runcorn plant, faces the loss of many markets. Substitutes for chlorine are being found in many applications, ranging from paper bleaching to water cleansing, and PVC remains its main hope.

PVC represents the largest single use of chlorine, taking roughly a third of all production. And PVC is a growing market, mainly because of its use in the building industry. About a fifth of the PVC produced in Western Europe goes into packaging, with bottles accounting for about half of that.

Industry maintains that there is nothing to fear from properly controlled production and use of PVC. Manufacturers continue to spend substantial sums to ensure it is seen as safe, including the adoption by the European vinyl manufacturers last year of a charter which commits them to lower emissions and co-operation to improve safety.

Their research has suggested that the use of phthalates is not dangerous. Industry expert David Cadogan reported at an industry conference last year: "Results confirm that the phthalates commonly used in the plasticisation of PVC do not require classification as Dangerous for the Environment".

But Greenpeace insists that PVC is unsafe and unnecessary. "We want to see a phase-out of all PVC production," a spokeswoman said yesterday. It is seen as flawed at every stage, from the production of the chlorine to the disposal of the final product.

And the additives which make it useful represent one of the key concerns, as the Government and baby milk manufacturers have now discovered.

A bigger splash	
Scottish Power	£1.56 billion
Severn Trent	£2 billion
Wessex Water	£716 million
Anglian Water	£1.5 billion
Yorkshire Water	£1.4 billion
Thames Water	£2.3 billion
London Electricity	£2 billion
United Utilities	£1.5 billion

BT cuts business phone bills further

Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom yesterday announced new discounts that it estimates will cut the cost of business calls by £220 million a year.

The discounts, which come into effect on July 1, complete the reductions that the group has to make under its price controls agreement with OfTel, the industry regulator, which is expected to run from 1997 to 2001.

It has argued that the business market has become so competitive that

towards a price cuts target of up to £400 million next year.

Most of BT's six million business customers already subscribe to one of its discount schemes, and the latest package includes a scheme aimed at small businesses with phone bills of between £10 and £35 a quarter.

The announcement comes as BT tries to persuade OfTel to exclude most business charges from the next price regime, which is expected to run from 1997 to 2001.

It has argued that the business market has become so competitive that

price controls are no longer needed. Most of the companies that entered the telecom market since it was fully opened to competition in 1991 have concentrated on winning business customers.

Don Cruickshank, OfTel's director general, wants to continue tight price controls on BT because of its market dominance. But he has indicated that he is prepared to remove them in business areas where there is enough competition.

BT said yesterday that the new discounts would add about 10 per cent to existing levels, enabling businesses to save between

27 and 31 per cent on basic regional calls, and in international calls. The additional 6 per cent discount on local calls offered savings of between 20 and 24 per cent on the basic rate.

Mr Cruickshank yesterday proposed some relaxation of regulatory restraints on the mobile phone business, with reliance more on general competition rules than detailed regulation.

Cable & Wireless yesterday dismissed Part 14 reports that it had offered to sell a 7 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to Chinese interests as "purely speculative".

Wise move for former drop-out

Workforce/ Pioneering project offers way to avoid labour scrap heap, says Sarah Ryle

IN Carl Reid's words, he got chucked out of school aged 15. A short period of home tuition — "horrible" — and two Youth Training Schemes — "we were allowed to muck around" — led to menial jobs.

But Carl, now 20, has avoided the next stage to the labour scrap heap. The one-time school drop-out is in full-time, paid work thanks to a pioneering project run by the Wise Group.

The Glasgow-based charity piloted a scheme in Scotland to offer training and then paid work experience to long-term unemployed people of all ages as a bridge between benefit and jobs, termed the Intermediate Labour Market.

the difference between this and the controversial government proposals for Workfare, now effectively sidelined. "If workfare is compulsory work for benefits, the ILM is voluntary training and work experience for an income."

They began by working on energy conservation projects, like heat insulation, in social housing but have expanded into construction work, landscaping and also administration training. The London branch carries out work in the Canning Town Single Regeneration Budget area. Carl is a product of the first youth programme targeted at school-leavers.

Newham Wise manager Barbara Gobbett said: "When

Carl first came to us his self-esteem was low. He lives on the Keir Hardie estate which has a reputation as the worst in the area. There has been a huge change, he's confident and motivated."

Eight months into the project, Carl has done his training in construction skills on a course run by the building company Mowlem at its nearby base. At the six-month, halfway mark he was offered a weekly wage of £125 plus bus pass and £1-a-day lunch money instead of benefit. Those who are married with kids often reject the wages because they would lose benefits and be worse off.

than I had on the YTS. The people care about you."

The course leads to an NVQ level two certificate in construction, but the Wise group says the crucial, extra element is the work experience. Group training works out cheaper than alternatives and has got more people into jobs. The Glasgow group has placed nearly half their 5,000 participants in full-time jobs.

The group has a £13.5 million annual turnover and is financed by the European Social Fund as well as local authority grants. Funding controller, Alistair Grimes, wants the scheme to be developed nationally and believes the mistakes of past projects, which have turned out cheap products and undercut existing suppliers, can be avoided. "It's not a magic solution but could be a powerful tool for combating unemployment."



Scottish Power

Offer for Southern Water

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SOCCKER: THE ENGLAND EURO 96 SQUAD

A midfielder gives way as England's coach plumps for an extra striker, maximum security and the versatility of Campbell and Southgate in his 22

The Terry Venables summer collection



Les Ferdinand... Newcastle's most prolific marksman

David Seaman

Arsenal, goalkeeper. Born: Rotherham, Ages 32. Caps: 24 (debut v Saudi Arabia, 16.11.93). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: Leeds, Peterborough, Birmingham, QPR. Heights 6ft 2in. Weight: 14st 10lb.

Tim Flowers

Blackburn, goalkeeper. Born: Kenilworth, Ages 29. Caps: 8 (debut v Brazil, 13.6.93). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: Wolves, Southampton, Swindon (loan). Heights 5ft 2in. Weight: 14st 0lb.

Ian Walker

Tottenham, goalkeeper. Born: Walford, Ages 24. Caps: 2 (debut v Hungary, 18.5.96). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: Oxford (loan). Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 11st 9lb.

Gary Neville

Manchester United, right-back. Born: Bury, Ages 21. Caps: 10 (debut v Japan, 8.6.96). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 10in. Weight: 11st 7lb.

Tony Adams

Arsenal, centre-back. Born: Romford, Ages 29. Caps: 4 (debut v Spain, 18.2.87). Goals: 4. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 3in. Weight: 13st 11lb.

Steve Howey

Newcastle, centre-back. Born: Sunderland, Ages 24. Caps: 4 (debut v Nigeria, 16.11.94). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 6ft 2in. Weight: 11st 8lb.

Gareth Southgate

Aston Villa, centre-back. Born: Walsley, Ages 25. Caps: 1 (debut v Portugal, 12.12.95). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: Crystal Palace. Heights 5ft 10in. Weight: 11st 12lb.

Sol Campbell

Tottenham, defender. Born: Newham, Ages 21. Caps: 1 (debut v Hungary, 18.5.96). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 12st 10lb.

Stuart Pearce

Nottingham Forest, left-back. Born: Hamersmith, Ages 24. Caps: 65 (debut v Brazil, 19.5.87). Goals: 5. Previous clubs: Walsdstone, Coventry. Heights 5ft 10in. Weight: 13st.

Philip Neville

Manchester United, left-back. Born: Bury, Ages 19. Caps: 1 (debut v China, 23.5.96). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 12st.

Darren Anderton

Tottenham, midfielder. Born: Southampton, Ages 24. Caps: 11 (debut v Denmark, 8.3.94). Goals: 5. Previous clubs: Portsmouth. Heights 6ft. Weight: 11st 7lb.

Steve Stone

Nottingham Forest, midfielder. Born: Gainsborough, Ages 24. Caps: 2 (debut v Norway, 11.10.88). Goals: 2. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 8in. Weight: 11st 10lb.

Paul Gascoigne

Rangers, midfielder. Born: Gifford, Ages 29. Caps: 48 (debut v Denmark, 14.9.89). Goals: 7. Previous clubs: Newcastle, Tottenham, Lazio. Heights 5ft 10in. Weight: 11st 7lb.

Paul Ince

Internazionale, midfielder. Born: Wod, Ages 28. Caps: 19 (debut v Spain, 9.9.92). Goals: 2. Previous clubs: West Ham, Manchester United. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 11st 7lb.

David Platt

Arsenal, midfielder. Born: Chadderton, Ages 29. Caps: 52 (debut v Italy, 15.11.89). Goals: 27. Previous clubs: Manchester United, Crewe Alexandra, Aston Villa, Bari, Juventus, Sampdoria. Heights 5ft 10in. Weight: 11st 12lb.

Jamie Redknapp

Liverpool, midfielder. Born: Barton-on-Sea, Ages 22. Caps: 4 (debut v Colombia, 8.9.93). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: Bournemouth. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 11st 8lb.

Steve McManaman

Liverpool, midfielder. Born: Bootle, Ages 24. Caps: 10 (debut v Nigeria, 6.11.94). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 10st 2lb.

Les Ferdinand

Newcastle, striker. Born: Acton, Ages 29. Caps: 10 (debut v San Marino, 17.2.93). Goals: 5. Previous clubs: QPR, Brentford (loan), Beşiktaş (loan). Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 13st 5lb.

Robbie Fowler

Liverpool, striker. Born: Liverpool, Ages 21. Caps: 3 (debut v Bulgaria, 27.3.96). Goals: 0. Previous clubs: None. Heights 5ft 8in. Weight: 11st 8lb.

Nick Barnby

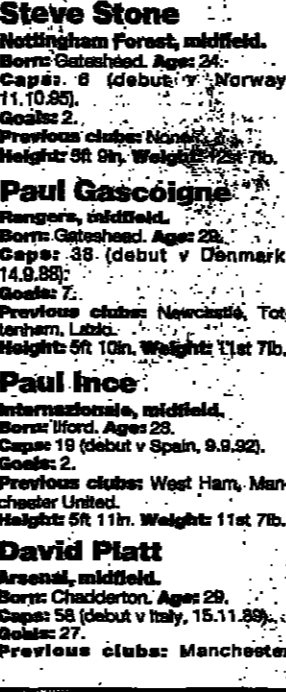
Middlesbrough, forward. Born: Hull, Ages 22. Caps: 6 (debut v Uruguay, 29.3.95). Goals: 2. Previous clubs: Tottenham. Heights 5ft 8in. Weight: 11st 3lb.

Teddy Sheringham

Tottenham, forward. Born: Higham, Ages 30. Caps: 15 (debut v Poland, 29.5.93). Goals: 2. Previous clubs: Millwall, Aldershot (loan), Nottingham Forest. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 12st 5lb.

Alan Shearer

Blackburn, striker. Born: Newcastle, Ages 25. Caps: 23 (debut v France, 19.2.92). Goals: 5. Previous clubs: Southampton. Heights 5ft 11in. Weight: 11st 3lb.



Alan Shearer... 37 goals for Blackburn but England awaits



Robbie Fowler... a striking revelation at Liverpool

Germany bent on style

Michael Walker, in Belfast for tonight's international, hears a remarkable pledge

THE chances of Euro 96 turning into a feast of open football went up another notch yesterday when the eyebrow-raising announcement from the German manager Berti Vogts that style is his overriding concern, not victory. "The way we play is more important than success," said Vogts. "If we win the title as well as playing good football, then great, but we must play attractive football."

Couto prefers Old Trafford

Rangers, thwarted last week when Gianluca Vialli opted to join Chelsea, appear to have lost out again, this time to Manchester United, writes Don Best

RANGERS, thwarted last week when Gianluca Vialli opted to join Chelsea, appear to have lost out again, this time to Manchester United, writes Don Best. The Scottish champions offered around £2.75 million for Parma's 26-year-old Portuguese international central defender Fernando Couto but the player fancies Old Trafford.

Green light for Brown

Patrick Glenn, in Miami, on a World Cup boost for Scotland's beleaguered manager

CRAIG BROWN's standing as Scotland's manager after the 2-1 defeat by the United States remains unshaken and yesterday he was given the responsibility of taking the national team to the World Cup finals in France in 1998. Jim Farry, chief executive of the Scottish FA, confirmed Brown's extended remit, having already promised as much after last month's friendly in Denmark.

Lynch berates British players

Jim Lynch, the former Durrumfield, Fire and Dunfermline coach, will be in charge of the Superleague club at Ayr when they begin operations in August.

JIM LYNCH, the former Durrumfield, Fire and Dunfermline coach, will be in charge of the Superleague club at Ayr when they begin operations in August. If the coach is familiar to the domestic game, it is unlikely the same will be true of Ayr's players. Lynch said that, because of British players' lack of interest, his team will be mostly "European Community passport holders based in Europe".

Results

Table with columns for Soccer, U-21 Tournaments, Friendly International, Rugby Union, Tennis, and Tour Matches. Lists various international and club fixtures with scores.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for Soccer, Rugby Union, and Hockey, including dates and venues.

Sport in brief

Summary of various sports news items, including rowing, ice hockey, and cycling.

Rowing

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, the Olympic pair hit by virus, have withdrawn from the final pre-Olympic regatta in Lucerne this weekend.

Teamtalk advertisement for the latest transfer news, featuring a large phone number (0891 33 77+) and a list of transfer rumors for various clubs.

Table listing various sports results and fixtures, including soccer, tennis, and other sports.

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Cricket

B & H Cup, quarter-finals: Glamorgan v Warwickshire

Maynard upset by finger of fate

David Foot at Cardiff

AS LONG as Matthew Maynard and Otis Gibson were together in an exhilarating middle-order Glamorgan looked set to storm to victory and prolong Warwickshire's tentative present run. The county champions were uncharacteristically nervous but, once the partnership was broken, they recovered their poise to squeeze home by 12 runs.

Knights, Ostler and Brown were all injured on the fingers. The consequences were worse for Knight, who fractured his left index finger, though he is keen to play in the championship match on Thursday. The umpires noted the early vagaries of the track but these lessened considerably as the day wore on.

Warwickshire were all out with seven balls of their allocation left. Ostler, above all, had given them substance every reason to suppose the target had become a realistic one, leaving them a relatively obtainable 63 to get in the last 10 overs.

Surrey v Yorkshire

Powerful Byas runs in Yorkshire's favour

Paul Weaver at The Oval

YORKSHIRE not only beat Surrey here yesterday; they rubbed their hosts' noses in the groundsman Paul Brind's famous soil, winning by nine wickets with 12.6 overs to spare to reach the semi-finals for the first time for five years.

defeated 116, his highest score in one-day cricket. He faced 108 balls, hit 18 fours, most of them with strong drives, and with Michael Bevan (85) added 136 from 137 balls for the second wicket.

impetus and, with wickets falling regularly, they resembled a car changing up too soon. Both Alistair Brown, with 40 from as many deliveries and seven fours, and Graham Thorpe, who hit 41 and six fours, were out just when they looked ready to dominate.

Northamptonshire v Kent

Early honours to Capel at a pinch

David Hoppes at Northampton

DAVID CAPEL objects to being called a pinch-hitter. To borrow an American baseball term offends his regard for cricket's traditions. He would prefer his gung-ho half-century for Northamptonshire to be depicted purely as a piece of forceful opening batsmanship.

matched the World Cup standards of Sachin Tendulkar. Capel bore his responsibilities gravely, as if striving for a veneer of Victorian respectability to a slightly squalid art. McCague withdrew from the attack after conceding 20 in two overs, whereupon he spent much of the next hour pounding around the long-leap boundary as Thompson was pulled to distraction.

Lancs v Gloucestershire

Elworthy gets his name in lights at last

Mike Selvey at Old Trafford

WHEN someone asks whether Steve Elworthy toured England with Australia A and is told "no, probably not, because he's South African", it is obvious that Lancashire's overseas replacement for Westam Akram is no celebrity.

By the time play ended at 6 o'clock, however, they had lost the match. Elworthy, who had been in the side for a long time, sort of pinch-hitting nightwatchman, for 12.

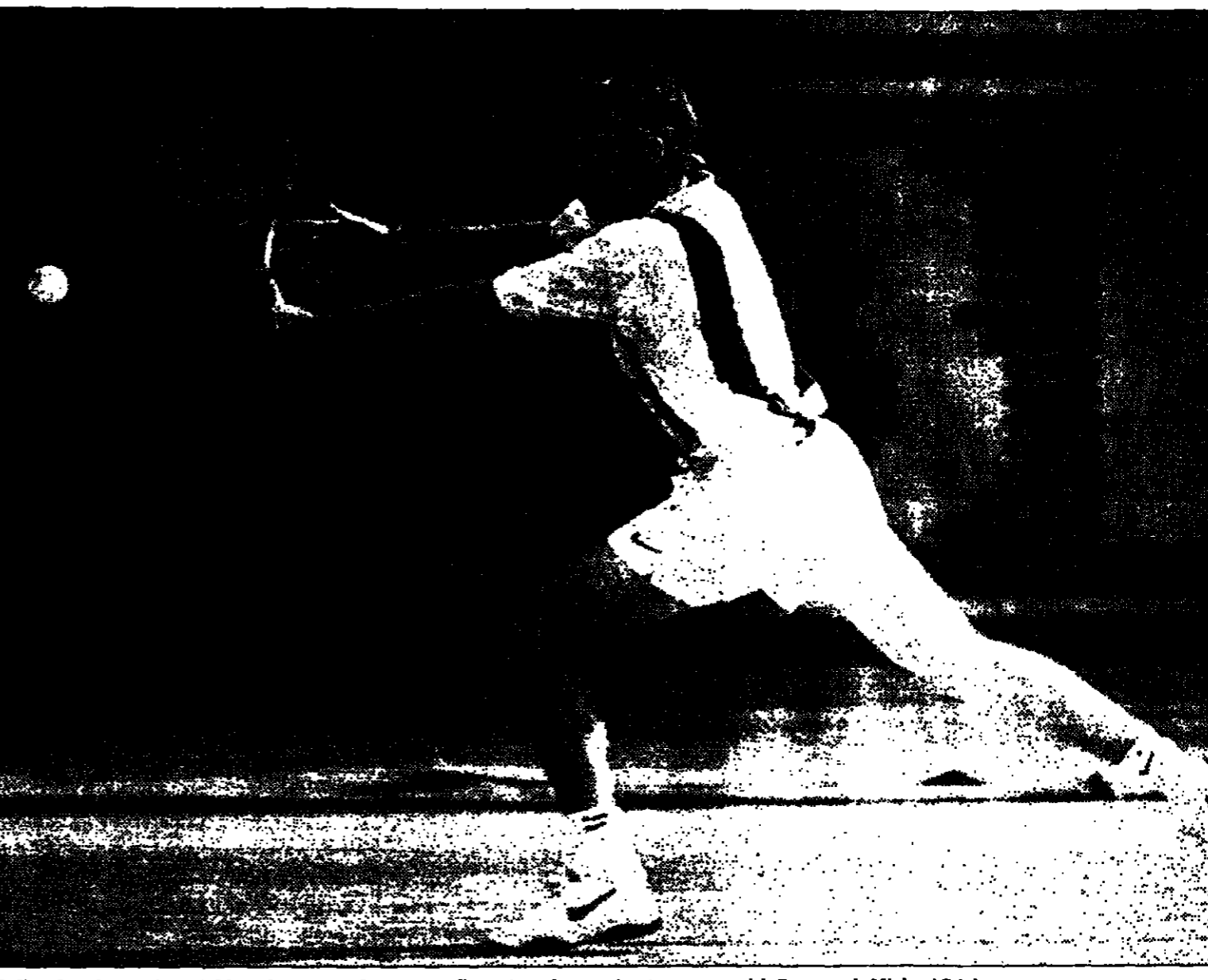
Sidhu refuses to reconsider

INDIA'S management have failed to persuade their Test opening batsman Navtej Singh to reconsider his decision to retire from international cricket, writes Mike Selvey.

Sidhu feels he is the scapegoat for some poor India performances and is believed to have said he might be ready to return under a different captain from Mohammad Azharuddin.

Mark Atkinson then slashed at Watkinson and was caught by Warren Hogg and Richard Davis, attempting a single to mid-off, under-estimated Austin and was run out. Russell, meanwhile, was beginning to turn things round when he slashed at Austin and was caught behind.

TENNIS: THE FRENCH OPEN



Ball embracing... Rusedski on the way to victory over five sets and a meeting tomorrow with Germany's Michael Stich

Capriati goes out to Yi

Stephen Bierley sees an American dream take a nightmare turn on the red clay of Paris

WHEN Jennifer Capriati reached the semi-finals of the French Open in 1990 she was 14 years old. It was her Grand Slam debut and there seemed every reason to suppose the big-boned, avert-haired American with the booming forehand would be a dominant force in women's tennis beyond the millennium.

Yi spoke through an interpreter, from which it was gleaned that both her parents worked in a factory and that she gave 50 per cent of her earnings to the government.

There was no minder for Capriati although goodness knows she could have done with someone to shield and protect her in recent years. What a fall she has had. In 1991 the American was the youngest ever semi-finalist at Wimbledon, defeating Martina Navratilova on the way; the year before that she had become the youngest player to be ranked in the top 10.

Larisa Neiland of Latvia, a doubles specialist, was not entirely convincing, with too many unforced errors, but she appears to have put well behind her the horrors of the Italian Open, where she was defeated by the 15-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for various sports including Barmen and Hodge Cup, Lancashire v Gloucestershire, and various international matches.

Sailing

McWilliam surfs to victory

JOHN McWILLIAM, in the John Corby-designed Surfin' Shoes, clinched the Class 0 victory in the Rover Series yesterday after a head-to-head battle with her near sister, Roy Dickson's Cricklin Rosie.

From today, try finding extra time for your children.

Advertisement for NSPCC Children's Day featuring a cartoon character and the text 'From today, try finding extra time for your children.'

EURO 96 FOOTLINE advertisement with phone number 099 099 1996 and 'FOOTBALL COMES HOME' slogan.

Opening victory for Scots tourists, page 13
Virus checks Redgrave and Pinsent, page 14

Rusedski battles through in Paris, page 15
Manchester United woo Couto, page 14

SportsGuardian

England go for fire power

David Lacey on Venables' inclusion of all his strikers in his Euro 96 squad

TERRY VENABLES will set out to win the European Championship with fire-power rather than kindling wood, marksmen rather than powder monkeys. Goals win matches and England will be looking to the Premiership's most prolific scorers to provide them.

Of the 27 players who went to the Far East the defender Ugo Ehiogu and three midfielders, Jason Wilcox, Dennis Wise and Robert Lee, have been added to the name of Peter Beardsley on the surplus-to-requirements list.

So, instead of opting for Les Ferdinand or Robbie Fowler as an alternative should Alan Shearer fail to break his international duck of nearly two seasons, Venables has included both strikers in the

wide variety of positions. The inclusion of Campbell, along with Walker, Gascoigne, Anderton, Sheringham and Barnby, means that more than 25 per cent of the places are filled by members of Terry Venables' former Tottenham team.

Campbell's one England appearance amounts to 25 minutes against Hungary a week ago last Saturday but his ability, like that of Southgate, to play with equal comfort in defence or midfield always made him a likely choice.

Campbell, moreover, is still only 21. If England have a good tournament the most important legacy Venables will hand on to his successor Glenn Hoddle for the 1998 World Cup qualifiers is a squad in which more than half of the players are 25 or under. Lee is 30, eight years older than Jamie Redknapp, whose youth surely helped win him Venables' vote.

The team England are likely to field against Switzerland in the opening game of the European Championship on Saturday week should see Seaman in goal, Gary Neville, Adams and Pearce in a back three with Ince in front of them, Anderton and McCluskey wide, Gascoigne and Platt in central midfield, and Sheringham and Shearer up front. Whatever Venables' initial line-up, the side is bound to change as the tournament progresses.

"I always said that deciding who to leave out of the squad would be the most difficult decision of my footballing life," he said, "and it has been."

"Those who have missed out are very unfortunate but the 22 I've chosen will give England a squad of quality, versatility and flair. Above all it's a squad that believes in itself. Over two years a real unity of purpose has grown up among the players," Venables continued. "We want to win for everyone. Now comes the real test."

Whoever else Venables chooses, the importance of Ince, Gascoigne, Sheringham and Shearer to England's cause would have remained the same. If he decides to retain the recently acquired three-man defensive system, then Ince, who will have to support Adams as well as the attack, becomes the most crucial figure of all.

At this level, however, plans are apt to go awry and Venables' qualities as an improviser are likely to be called upon sooner rather than later. A collapse of Adams's recently injured knee, for example, would ask much of defenders who, with the exception of Pearce, are totally inexperienced in major tournaments.

England will look to Gascoigne to provide the unexpected in a midfield that without him tends to be hard-working but utterly predictable. Maybe McCluskey will not be chained to the left wing for long. Venables has long wanted him to roam as he does for Liverpool.

Somebody will have to make a habit of finding the target. Six goals against Hungary and China do not make England's most feared attack of Euro 96. Shearer will have to regain his international scoring touch early if he is to withstand the pressure from Fowler and Ferdinand. Perhaps that is why both are there.

Switzerland have left Adrian Knup and Alain Suter out of their squad for Euro 96 but the Everton full-back Marc Hotiger is included.

squad of 22 which he announced a few hours after the England players arrived back from Hong Kong yesterday.

Between them Shearer (87), Fowler (38) and Ferdinand (29) scored 102 goals for their clubs last season, and Teddy Sheringham netted another 24. With Nick Barnby already earmarked for Beardsley's role as a cover for Sheringham, something has had to give in order to accommodate five front players.

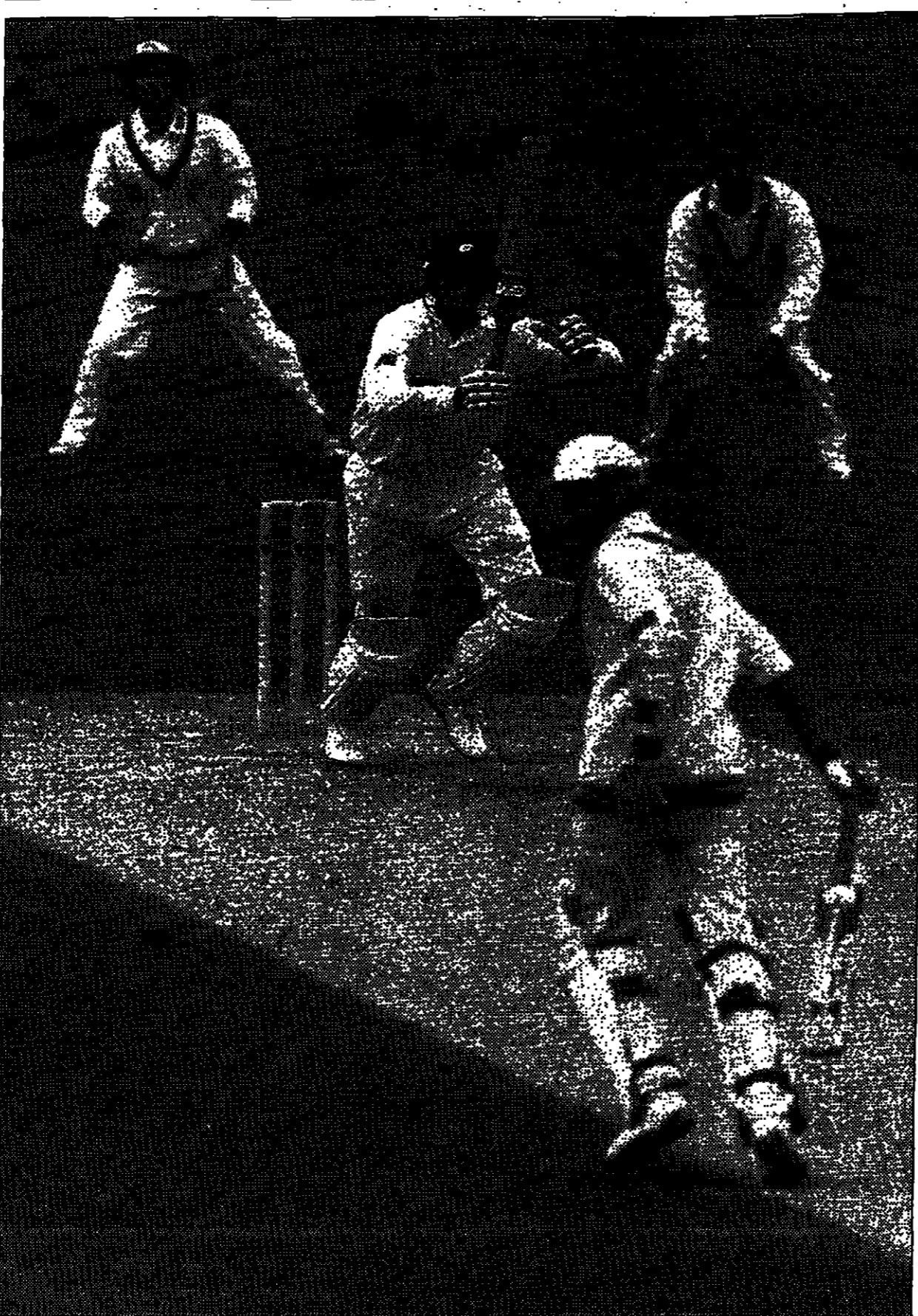
The sacrifices have been made in midfield, where three rather than two men missed the cut. Wise was expected to be among the unlucky ones and Wilcox's lack of international experience counted against him despite being naturally left-footed. Newcastle United's Lee, who was the natural cover for David Platt, looks to be the fall guy. At least his absence has probably spared a club-mate, Ferdinand, similar disappointment.

The choices in defence are much as expected, with Ehiogu always looking the man most likely to step down once Venables had convinced himself Steve Howey's fitness. Both the Neville brothers are in, and Gareth Southgate and Sol Campbell will give Venables cover in a

Ince... supporting role

The squad, page 14

SURREY ROUNDLY BEATEN AT THE OVAL



Bold as Byas... the Yorkshire captain drives Julian for four on his way to his century

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN SMITH

Yorkshire stroll into semi-finals

DAVID BYAS, the captain, made 116 not out as Yorkshire swamped Surrey, who gelded their four England Test players, by 200 runs to reach the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals.

Yorkshire achieved their target of 230 with 12.5 overs to spare after Byas and Michael Bevan (66 not out) put on 136.

The disputed leg-before decision against Matthew Maynard demoralised Glamorgan against Warwickshire at Cardiff. Maynard made 75 and Otis Gibson 68 before Glamorgan, needing 240, collapsed from 216 for five to 237 all out.

Kent resume on 108 for four today in reply to Northamptonshire's 293 for seven and Lancashire are in dire straits on 12 for three chasing Gloucestershire's 188.

Reports, page 15

Prodigal Keane turns up - to watch cricket

Michael Walker

ROY KEANE, the newly appointed captain of the Republic of Ireland who went missing before even assuming the position, resurfaced yesterday.

But he chose not to show his face in Dublin, where his Irish manager and teammates were preparing for tonight's friendly with Portugal. Instead he turned up in Manchester at the Old Trafford headquarters of Lancashire Cricket Club.

Rather than report to Dublin, which itself would have been a belated gesture, Keane chose to watch Lancashire's Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final against Gloucestershire, after returning from a holiday on Capri with his girlfriend. To make an already unsatisfactory situation worse, he appeared to have been drinking heavily.

The Republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy reacted initially by withdrawing the Manchester United midfielder from their next six international matches, including the imminent three-match tour of the United States. McCarthy had tried to entice Keane to make the trip by making him captain.

Later, however, McCarthy had softened his tone after Keane had made contact by telephone. "Now I want to see him and sort all this out. If he turns up in the next day or two, and he is fit, he could still be involved in two games against quality opposition - Croatia on Sunday and Holland in Rotterdam next Tuesday."

"I need players who want to break their necks to play for their country. I have got to see that commitment from Roy like I've seen it from other players."

It appears that Keane is a young man who does not know where he is going. The 24-year-old from Cork has already acquired a long record of indiscipline for such a short career. On the field this has been manifested in reckless, aggressive behaviour, typified on his last international appearance against Russia in March when he was sent off. He had been handed the captain's armband only minutes earlier.

"I am not saying the door is

still open to America because

Drums bang amid a clash of symbols



Vincent Hanna

Come all ye dry land sailors And listen to my song...

OF ALL the stretches of water that struck terror into the hearts of mariners the most dangerous was that which lay between Lisburn and Aghalee on the old Lagan canal - or so the song goes.

It is about the shipwreck of the good ship Calibar which, a century ago, carried coal to Portadown, dragged by a very old horse. Calamity struck them just before the Stranmillis lock when the Calibar ran up on an uncharted lump of coal.

I went back to the spot this week for the Dragon Boat races and, of course, for the elections. It was a nostalgic trip because, just down the towpath after university dances, I used to do some serious parking.

Dragon Boats are long, narrow, war canoes with 20 paddlers, six of whom must be women. They originated in Hong Kong where the festival of Tuen Ng is celebrated in the harbour by the frantic paddling of hundreds of the beasts. Here it is an amateur participation sport, and tremendous fun. Most of the teams come from pubs or office groups. Monday was a funny, lively day with 260 happy paddlers.

Each boat has a big drum which is whacked by a team member like a galley slave driver. This unnerved me a bit, partly because it is the start of the Ulster marching season and partly because one of the drummers was Stroke City's own Gerry Anderson. "Well, it's not often," said Gerry, "you get to celebrate the final act of a decent politician."

HE was talking about Qiyuan, a minister at the court of Chu in the fourth century BC, who lost his job in a Cabinet reshuffle and sadly wandered the country writing poetry. When that did not go down well, he threw himself in the Mi Lu river. Unlike the crew of the Calibar, who were saved when a passing farmboy threw in the end of his galuses, Qiyuan drowned.

Dragon Boat racing commemorates the efforts of hundreds of fishermen who vainly

raced out to save him. I do not believe a word of that. Confucius he say: *tragedy is when politician throw himself in river, calamity is when someone fish him out.*

So far, none of the 800 candidates in the elections to the Northern Ireland Forum have followed the example of Qiyuan, although lots have been rushing up and down beating drums.

Dragon Boats came to Britain in 1985 and there are about 50 boats around the country. You can buy a quick-assembly one for about £7,000. For Monday's regatta the national association brought over four boats, and 13 teams competed all day, over a 250-metre course.

The event was won by the Hillsdale bar in Hillsborough, which is just down the street from where Mrs Thatcher signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Rumors-up were the team from the Robinson Leisure Centre, named after the deputy leader of the DUP. It is embarrassing, but necessary, to record that both teams contained Protestants and Catholics, because that is still rare enough in the Province.

THE LEGACY of 25 years of futile violence is only too visible in the mutually agreed separation of large sections of the two communities. A year-held, Ulster style, extends beyond worship to education and sport. Catholics still play different games from Protestants. Indeed you can still grow up here without socialising across the sectarian divide. In spite of the efforts of open-minded individuals, rugby and rowing are by and large the preserve of Protestants. Gaelic games are played by Catholics. Soccer is played by both communities but the game still suffers from a sectarian hangover.

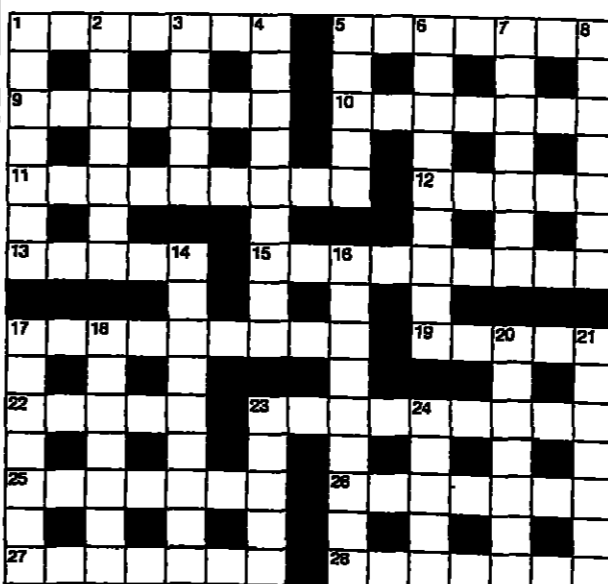
One shining exception has been the work done for local athletics by the estimable Mary Peters, whose example and reputation have broken down many barriers.

Dragon Boat racing is very popular in South Africa, especially in Cape Town where multi-racial regattas are seen as the symbol of the new South African. A year-held could do with a new symbol or two. Across the river from the regatta on Monday the Annadale estate was dubbed with slogans, and they had already started to build their Twelfth of July bonfire.

I don't know what became of the work done for local athletics by the estimable Mary Peters, whose example and reputation have broken down many barriers. Dragon Boat racing is very popular in South Africa, especially in Cape Town where multi-racial regattas are seen as the symbol of the new South African. A year-held could do with a new symbol or two. Across the river from the regatta on Monday the Annadale estate was dubbed with slogans, and they had already started to build their Twelfth of July bonfire.

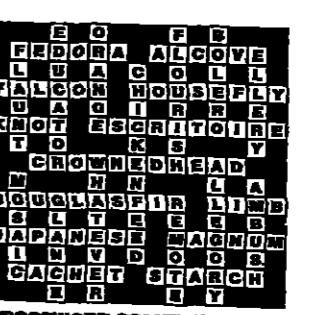
Guardian Crossword No 20,665

Set by Gordius



- Across**
- 1 Clap for a pet (7)
 - 5 Corpse of engineer found by power supply (7)
 - 9 His wife has another... (7)
 - 10... fellow, a slippery type but well-bred (7)
 - 11 Snap, crackle, and pop - could be epic treat (9)
 - 12 An article about Macbeth? (5)
 - 13 Course record made by some, but not all (5)
 - 15 Unusually hot dry temperature as indicative of water (9)
 - 17 Dispose of body before time - explain (5)
 - 19 Subject of parable swore to reform (5)
 - 22 Gormless mountain dog (5)
 - 23 Car battery connection could be risky (4,5)
 - 25 Great Tory rule due to blind obstinacy (7)

- Down**
- 26 Mathematical proposition - the more, the merrier (7)
 - 27 Sets about restricting free bounds (7)
 - 28 Armada drifted north fast (7)



- CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,664**
- 16 One is dismissive of French farm worker (5)
 - 17 In the States restraining young is a nightmare (7)
 - 18 Macho types can be so happy (7)
 - 20 Rumour said to have got round fast (7)
 - 21 Government curtails colonel's responsibility (7)
 - 23 Inclusive poet? (5)
 - 24 Some other method of measuring energy (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 335 228. Call cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ADS

Above all, Americans like their weather because it is democratic. It may be different all over, but apart from chi-chi places like LA and San Francisco, everybody has to put up with something (even Seattle has its constant rain).
David Runciman

G2 page 5

July 20 1996